



Steel Industry Around the World

The steel industry made many important contributions in the early history of the United States. Some of the interesting, important contributions included:

* 1805:

The Pittsburgh Foundry was the first successful foundry in Pittsburgh. Some of the products made there were cannon, howitzers, shells, and balls. The arms and ammunition was used by Commodore Perry on Lake Erie during the War of 1812. It was also used by General Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812.

* 1839:

The first iron steamboat was built in the United States in Pittsburgh. The name of the boat was the "Kentucky". It came in sections over the mountains by means of a portage to Pittsburgh, and was the first sectional iron canal boat.

* 1874:

The Eads Bridge was constructed over the Mississippi River at St. Louis, Missouri. It was built by the Keystone Bridge Company of Pittsburgh. The bridge consists of steel arched ribs and several series of steel tubes. It was the first use of steel as a structural material.

* 1883:

The Brooklyn Bridge was constructed in New York. The bridge is supported with wire cables made of steel by the Carbon Steel Company of Pittsburgh. The steel cables were made by the open-hearth process of steelmaking.

* 1895:

George Gibson McMurtry founded the town of Vandergrift, PA. It was one of the first towns created specifically for millworkers. It was created for the workers at the Apollo Iron & Steel Company.

* 1913:

Mitering gates were made at the McClintic-Marshall Construction Company of Pittsburgh. The gates were used to build the Panama Canal locks with a total of about 53,000 tons of structural steel, castings, plates, and other material.



Choose one of the important contributions to the development of the United States. Use a variety of resources to research the contribution. Find out as much as you can about how it contributed to the development of industry and the economy, both local and national. Prepare a three-part project about the contribution:

1 – write a report about the contribution

- * describe the contribution, in detail
- * identify important people associated with the contribution
- * identify important locations relevant to the contribution
- * explain how the creation contributed to the development of the U.S.

2 – prepare a visual display to show the contribution

- * create a poster, mural, timeline, model, diorama, brochure, or any other type of visual display
- * label all of the important parts of the contribution

3 – prepare a speech to explain the contribution to the history and development of the United States

- * include an explanation of the contribution
- * explain how steel was used
- * explain the importance of this contribution to the development of industry and the economy, both on the local and national level
- * express your opinion as to the impact on the industry and economy
- * while you display your project, give your speech to the class; be prepared to answer questions from your classmates