

# AGRICULTURE AND INVENTIONS

## Introductory Set

Ask students what technologies make their lives easier. Why was each invented?

## Procedure

Write the following quote on the board. Have students explain the meaning.

**“Wherever a farm may be located,  
or whatever may be its production,  
fence, fence, and fence  
is the first, the intermediate,  
and the last consideration  
in the whole routine of the operations of the farm.”**

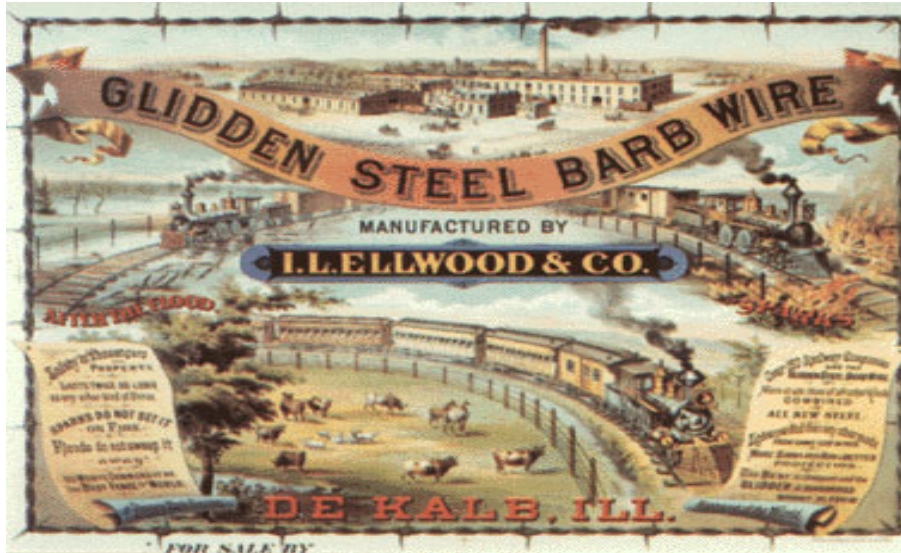
— S. Edwards Todd, *The Young Farmer's Manual*, 1860

A portion of the Osage Orange Hedgerow at Homestead National Monument of America.



# AGRICULTURE AND INVENTIONS

Then, have students analyze the following advertisement.  
How did the invention of barbed wire alter farming on homesteads?



Have students make a list of inventions that played a role in the development of homesteads, for example: plow, reaper, tractor, windmill, etc.

Have students, individually or in groups, select one invention. They must research the invention and its impact on agriculture. Using the websites listed below as a starting point, students should develop multimedia presentations for the class that explain the invention, its development and its impact.



McCormick Reaper <http://www.lib.niu.edu/1992/ihy921205.html>

A History of American Agriculture 1776-1990

<http://inventors.about.com/library/inventors/blfarm1.htm>

The Iowa Agriculturist <http://www.campsilos.org/mod2/teachers/r1.shtml>

A History of American Agriculture 1880

<http://www.agclassroom.org/gan/timeline/1880.htm>

Topics in Kansas History: Agriculture

<http://www.kshs.org/research/topics/agriculture/irrigation.htm>

Farming in the 1940's

[http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe40s/water\\_01.html](http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe40s/water_01.html)

Farming in the 1920's [http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe20s/machines\\_01.htm](http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe20s/machines_01.htm)

Farm History Video <http://www.history.com/shows/modern-marvels/videos/farm-plows-kick-up-dirt#farm-plows-kick-up-dirt>

# GLIDDEN STEEL BARB WIRE

MANUFACTURED BY

**I. L. ELLWOOD & CO.**

**AFTER THE FLOOD**

**SHARPS**

After the Flood  
Floods do not get up  
in a day.  
Floods do not get up  
in a day.  
Floods do not get up  
in a day.

After the Flood  
Floods do not get up  
in a day.  
Floods do not get up  
in a day.  
Floods do not get up  
in a day.

**DE KALE, ILL.**

FOR SALE BY

