

Lab #15 Cotton and the Pre-Civil War Economy

This Project

Students utilize spreadsheets to analyze data collected on the production of cotton, and its reliance on slave labor in the United States during the period of 1790 to 1860. They will create clustered column charts that depict this information graphically.

Materials

None

Before the Computer

- The southern states production of cotton shaped the region's economic base, which included an increased dependence on slave labor.
- The relationship between cotton production and slaves greatly influenced the turmoil between the northern and southern states, which eventually led to the American Civil War.

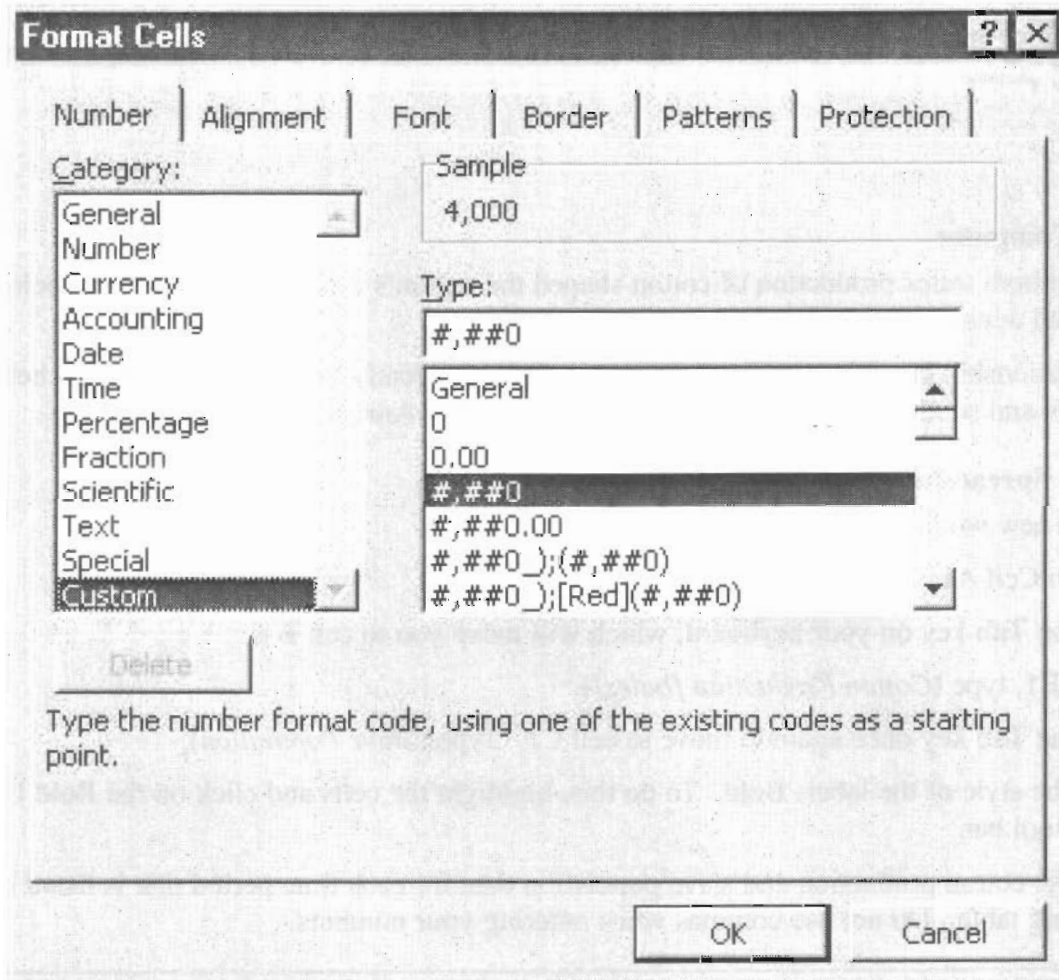
A. Create a Spreadsheet

1. Open a new workbook document in *Excel*.
2. Click in Cell A1. Type the label (*Year*).
3. Press the **Tab** key on your keyboard, which will move you to cell B1.
4. In cell B1, type (*Cotton Production [bales]*).
5. Press the **Tab** key once again to move to cell C1. Type (*Slave Population*).
6. Make the style of the labels Bold. To do this, highlight the cells and click on the **Bold** button (**B**) on the tool bar.
7. Enter the cotton production and slave population data for each time period that is listed in the following table. Do not use commas when entering your numbers.

Cotton Production and the Slave Population		
Year	Cotton Production (bales)	Slave Population
1790	4,000	697,897
1820	73,222	1,538,098
1840	1,347,640	2,487,213
1860	3,841,416	3,957,760

Lab 15 (cont.)

8. Center the data by highlighting the cells and clicking on the **Center** button on the tool bar.
9. Highlight cells A2-C5.
10. Go to the **FORMAT** menu, and drag your mouse down to select **Cells**.
11. Click the **Number** tab. Choose **Custom** from the **Category** list. Select **#,##0**.



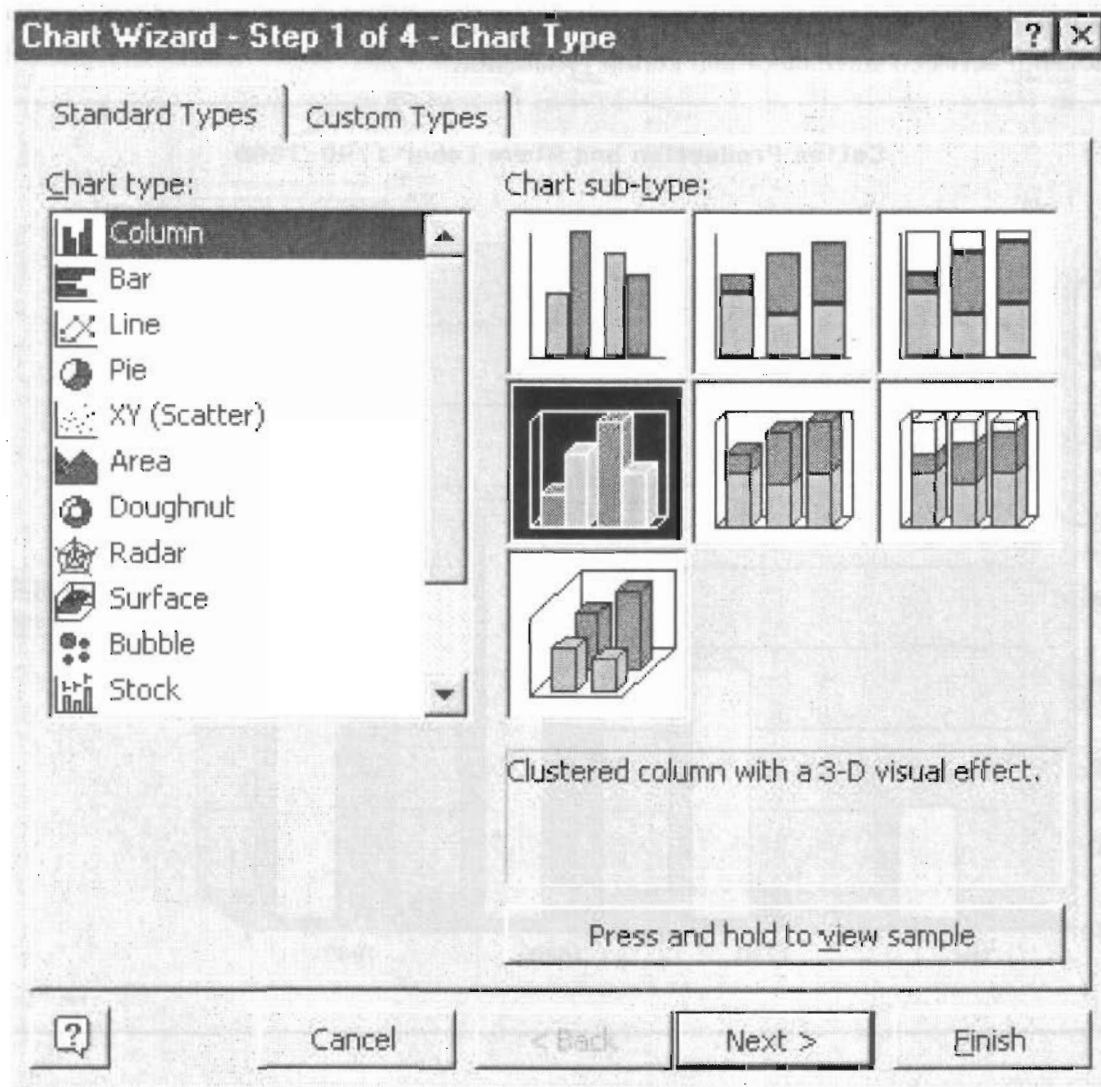
12. Click **ok**. This will automatically insert commas were needed in your numbers.
13. Save your data at this point and continue with part B.

	A	B	C
1	Year	Cotton Production (bales)	Slave Population
2	1790	4,000	697,897
3	1820	73,222	1,538,098
4	1840	1,347,640	2,487,213
5	1860	3,841,416	3,957,760

Lab 15 (cont.)

B. Create a Three-Dimensional Clustered Column Chart

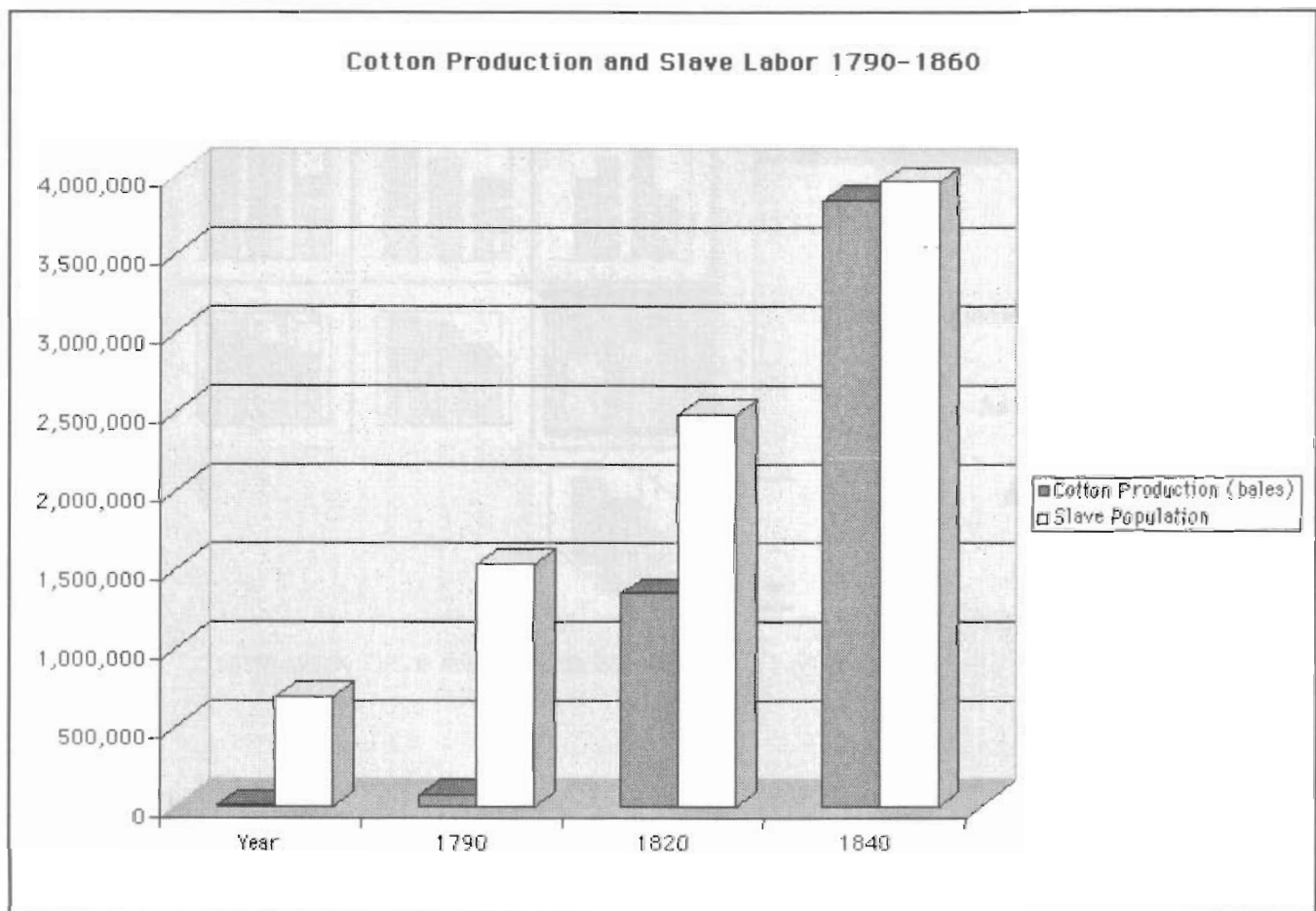
1. Highlight cells A1-C5.
2. Go to the **INSERT** menu and select **Chart**, or you can click on the **Chart Wizard** icon located on your tool bar.
3. In the **Chart Types** window select **Column** from the **Chart Type** list. Choose the **Clustered Column with 3-D Visual Effect** from **Chart Sub Types**.



4. Click the **Next** button.
5. In the **Chart Source Data** window, click the **Series** tab. Click on **Year** in the **Series** list.
6. Click the **Remove** button. This will remove the year data from the chart.
7. Click the red arrow icon located to the right of the **Category x-axis Labels** box.

Lab 15 (cont.)

8. Click in cell A2, and drag your mouse down to cell A5. Press the **Return** or **Enter** key on your keyboard. This will display the years as labels on the x-axis of your charts.
9. Click the **Next** button.
10. Click on the **Titles** tab. Type *(Cotton Production and Slave Labor 1790-1860)* in the Title box.
11. Click the **Next** button.
12. Choose **As New Sheet**, and type *(Bar Chart)* in the box next to it.
13. Click **Finish**, and your chart should resemble the picture below. Does your chart show a relationship between slave labor and cotton production?



This concludes the activity.

Remember to save your work.