# Water Power

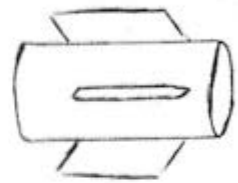
The Willimantic River attracted manufacturers to the area. Water power was important to the development of the Industrial Revolution. The falling water turned the giant water wheels which then turned the gears, the shafts and the belts to enable the machines to run. England's Samuel Slater established a water-powered mill in Rhode Island. Mill towns sprung up along New England rivers.

**You can make your own water wheel by following the directions and illustrations below.**

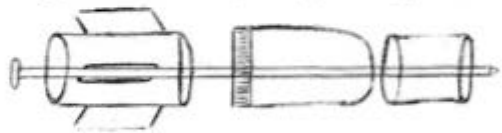
**Materials:** knitting needle, plastic bottle with screw-on cap, two corks, small pieces of plastic cut to size, matchbox, string

**Directions:**

1. Cut the pieces of plastic slightly smaller than the size of the cork. You will need 4 pieces for one of the corks. Cut slits into the cork. Insert plastic pieces into the slits.



2. Make a hole through the center of each cork. Also, make holes through the center of the bottle cap and the bottom of the bottle. Push the knitting needle through the finned cork, through the cap and bottle and then through the other cork.



It is important that the knitting needle fits tightly and not move around.

3. Tie the string on the unfinned cork. Attach an empty matchbox to the other end of the string. Put the finned cork under running water. The finned cork will turn the other cork and move the matchbox. You now have a water wheel that lifts objects.