

Name _____



ERIE CANAL MUSEUM

318 ERIE BOULEVARD EAST, SYRACUSE, NY 13202

Thank you to Rebecca Stephens, Fayetteville- Manlius

Erie Canal Projects

Choose one or more project to complete from the following list. You will notice that some projects letters are missing. These are projects that involve things you won't have access to.

- A) Write a **letter** from a young child employed in a New England factory to his/her parents discussing the working experience and conditions.
- B) Create a **political cartoon** criticizing Governor DeWitt Clinton and his plan for creating the Erie Canal, referred to by some as "Clinton's Ditch".
- D) Create a **poster** encouraging women to apply for employment by the Boston Associates for work in the Lowell, Massachusetts mills.
- E) Draw a **picture** depicting a typical Erie Canal boat and include a written description of interesting or important characteristics.
- F) Write an **essay** comparing/contrasting the effectiveness of a water route versus a rail route across New York State for transporting goods during the mid-1800's.
- H) In the spirit of the colonial revival time period and the profusion of patriotic expression of the early nineteenth century, create a **patriotic symbol** to represent the Erie Canal and its creation. Write a **brief description** as to why you chose these symbols for your expression.
- I) Write an **editorial** in the **Cleveland Star** (Ohio) newspaper of 1816 supporting or rejecting the notion of the creation of the Erie Canal.
- J) Describe in several **pictures** the process of salt manufacturing in Syracuse in the early nineteenth century. Be sure to include the four basic steps.
- K) Using the fictional account of 14-year old Elizabeth's journey from Amsterdam (NY) to Syracuse in the 1850's, write a **poem** from her perspective as she makes her way along the Erie Canal. See enclosed story, entitled *Life on the Erie Canal*
- L) Create a **schematic diagram** (blueprint) illustrating how a typical lock on the Erie Canal works.
- M) Create a two page **dialogue** between a recent emigrant from Ireland (a male adult who left his family's farm) and his new landlord discussing his impressions of the city in which he has arrived (which is a typical large city in America in the mid-nineteenth century).
- N) As Eli Whitney, create a **sales brochure** advertising your notion of interchangeable parts, which you believe, will improve manufacturing in America.

- O) Create a **song** about life in the Lowell mills **or** about the building of the Erie Canal and videotape your recording.
- P) Create a **timeline** of inventions for the period 1790-1825. Make it colorful and interesting.
- Q) Write a fictional **short story** about an Irish immigrant working on building the Erie Canal.
- R) Write **4 limericks** about life on the Erie Canal. The limericks must reflect 4 different topics. Use limerick example sheet enclosed.
- S) Build a **3-dimensional model** of an Erie Canal boat or working lock system.
- T) Write a **1-minute speech** from the viewpoint of Governor Dewitt Clinton. This speech should attempt to persuade the New York State Congress to approve the building of the Erie Canal. The speech must be videotaped and shared.
- U) Create a **mobile** illustrating at least five aspects of life on the Erie Canal or the Industrial Revolution.