

Post-Visit Activity

Questions along the Canal - Erie Canal Trivia (grade 4)

Materials:

- Classroom map of New York State or one of the maps from the pre-visit activity projected on the board.
- Canal boat cut-outs (provided)
- Erie Canal Trivia Questions (provided)
- Paper and pencil or small whiteboards and markers
- *Optional:* DVD - *The History of the Erie Canal*. This video is available for purchase from the Erie Canal Museum store. Showing the video from approximately the six-minute mark to the end may provide students with some more detailed background on the Erie Canal in preparation for the trivia activity.

Procedure:

1. Divide students into two teams. Assign a canal boat to each team. (Teams may wish to color their boats if not printed in color.)
2. Place each team's canal boat near Albany on a classroom map or a projected map from the Internet showing the route of the Erie Canal (see pre-visit activity)
3. Teams will be asked a series of questions about the history, ecology, economics, geography, and technology of the Erie Canal.
4. Give teams time to consider the question and write their answers on a sheet of paper or small whiteboard. When time is called, each team will reveal their answer at the same time.
5. For every correct answer, teams will move their canal boat to a city further along the Erie Canal from Albany in the east to Buffalo in the west. (Cities along the canal: Albany, Troy, Schenectady, Little Falls, Utica, Rome, Syracuse, Rochester, Lockport, Buffalo)
6. The first team to reach Buffalo wins!

Concluding Discussion

1. Divide the class into four or five-person groups to brainstorm some of the technological processes and equipment needed to complete the canal and how the canal changed New York State. Allow the students to think about these questions on their own, but if they need guidance, give them examples of technology/ processes used create the canal (such as stump pullers or weighlocks) or how it helped the state grow (for example, it expanded the economy).
2. After five to ten minutes, gather the students in a circle and have them toss a ball around the circle. Whoever catches the ball has to provide an example of the technological process, piece of equipment used in the building of the canal or how the canal changed New York State. This can be repeated until everyone has participated.
3. Conclude the activity by re-enforcing that the Erie Canal was a massive technological undertaking that employed many processes and pieces of equipment in order to ensure its completion. The canal became critical for the growth of commerce,

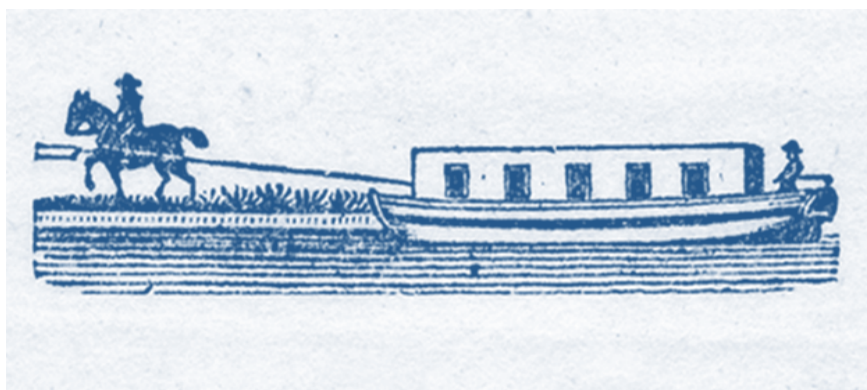
technology, travel, and development across the New York State and the entire country. Though we might not use the same technology that was used to construct the Erie Canal, emphasize to students that technology is critical to our society and drives its advancement each and every day.

Map of the Erie Canal



Post-Visit Activity Materials

Canal boat cut outs



Erie Canal Trivia Questions

1. What are the names of the two cities at the beginning and the end of the Erie Canal? ***Albany and Buffalo***
2. In what year did construction on the Erie Canal begin?
A) 1800 ***C) 1817***
B) 1903 D) 1865
3. The Erie Canal, like other waterways in New York, suffered from very dirty and smelly water. The water was not always dirty, however. Can you think of what might have made the water become unclean and smell? ***Pollution***
4. When the Erie Canal was being built, as many as 1200 workers lived in the small town of Lockport. For one week's pay, the 1200 workers were paid \$3600.00. How much was each worker paid per week? ***\$3.00***
5. The Erie Canal increased trade and commerce in Western and Central New York. What did this do for the economy of New York? ***It helped it! New York's economy boomed thanks to the Erie Canal.***
6. What Great Lake does the Erie Canal connect to?
A) Lake Erie C) Lake Michigan
B) Lake Huron D) Lake Ontario
7. What is the name of the buildings on the Erie Canal that weigh the boats in order to see how much to charge in tolls? ***Weighlocks***
8. In what year was the canal completed?
A) 1880 C) 1943
B) 1825 D) 1817
9. What kind of animals pulled the canal boats? ***Mules, Horses***
10. The speed limit for traveling on the Erie Canal was about 4 miles an hour. The Erie Canal is around 364 miles long. How many hours did it take for a boat to make it from one end of the canal to the next? ***91 hours***
11. Name an item traded on the Erie Canal. ***Items include potatoes, flour, guns, apples, lumber, whiskey, and fur.***
12. What was the nickname given to the Erie Canal during its construction?
A) Clinton's Ditch C) Lincoln's Hat
B) Washington's Monument D) Clinton's Path

13. What is the name of the river that the Erie Canal connects to near Albany

- A) The Amazon River
- B) The Mississippi River
- C) ***The Hudson River***
- D) The Mohawk River

Bonus Question

Describe how locks work.

The boat enters an open lock. The gates close. The boat is either raised or lowered, as the water in the lock is either emptied or filled by the lock master. The lock gates are opened in the direction the boat is traveling. The boat leaves the lock.