



• NYS SOCIAL STUDIES FRAMEWORK •

4.6 WESTWARD MOVEMENT AND INDUSTRIALIZATION

THE ERIE CANAL



ELA
INTEGRATED

4.6b



PRIMARY SOURCE
INVESTIGATION



Assessments



Build Thinking Skills



Engaging Activities

Name: _____ Date: _____

THE ERIE CANAL: CAUSES & ECONOMIC GROWTH

	No Impact on the Canal	Short Term Impact	Long Term Impact
Geography & Natural Resources			
Transportation Challenges			
Population Growth			
Economic Opportunity			

Explain: How did these factors influence the decision to build the Erie Canal?

Name: _____ Date: _____

THE ERIE CANAL: JOBS & BUSINESSES

The Erie Canal created many new jobs and businesses that helped New York grow. Read the advertisement poster to the right.

1. Identify: List at least three types of jobs created by the Erie Canal.

2. Analyze: How did these jobs impact people's lives and communities?

3. Evaluate: Do you think the Erie Canal created more positive or negative impacts for most people? Explain your answer using evidence from the text and the poster.

Name: _____ Date: _____

THE ERIE CANAL: CONTEMPORARY ACCOUNT

September 4, 1825

Dear Brother,

I have been traveling along the new canal, and I cannot say it is anything wonderful of our time. Boats filled with goods move so smoothly, pulled by strong teams of horses along the towpath. I see feed, lumber, barrels of salt, and even people traveling all along such vast vistas of the hills. Let the boats up and down the hills, and think our state in New York will change marvels forever.

Your friend,

Jonathan P.

1. Summarize: In one or two sentences, what is the main idea of this letter?

2. Infer: How does the writer feel about the Erie Canal? What clues from the text support your answer?

3. Connect: How do you think the Erie Canal affected people's daily lives at the time?

Name: _____ Date: _____

PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS: THE OPENING OF THE ERIE CANAL

Directions: Carefully examine this primary source. Answer the questions using evidence the.

1. What type of primary source is this?
A. Letter B. Newspaper article C. Government document D. Map

2. What is the main purpose of this document?

3. Who is the intended audience of this document?

4. What does this document tell us about the impact of the Erie Canal?

NO PREP • PRINT & GO • ANSWER KEY INCLUDED

Lesson #4: Towns and Cities Along the Canal

Lesson #3: Goods Shipped on the Canal

- "The Canal Brings Change – New Towns".

Lesson #2: The Erie Canal Brings Change – multi-day.

This could be done whole class, in stations or as a jig-saw. How you choose to do this lesson will determine how long it takes. There are 6 themes to investigate using the provided primary

Lesson 1: Erie Canal Background Information (likely 2 days)

FASTER AND CHEAPER TRANSPORTATION – THE ERIE CANAL

New York Social Studies Framework:

4.6b In order to connect the Great Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean, the Erie Canal was built. Existing towns expanded and new towns grew along the canal. New York City became the busiest port in the country.

- Students will examine the physical features of New York State and determine where it might be easiest to build a canal and form a hypothesis about the best location. Students will compare their hypothesis with the actual location of the Erie Canal.
- Students will locate and name at least five towns and four cities along the canal, and identify major products shipped using the canal.

Full, detailed lesson plans that meet all aspects of NYS SS Framework 4.6b

- *The Erie Canal* by Martha Kendall
- *The Erie Canal* by Peter Spier
- *We the People: The Erie Canal* by Andrew Santella

Read Aloud Chapter Book:

- *Hoggee* by Anna Myers

A student cover page is included in case you wish to print and handout all student pages in a packet. I find this is helpful, as the students have all the materials and can refer back to them.

KEY

7. What was happening all along the canal during its grand opening as the boats made their way from Buffalo to New York City?
All along the canal towns were having celebrations. There were bonfires, bands playing, and fireworks.

School children, veterans and townspeople lined the route cheering.

8. What was the "Marriage of the Waters?" What did it symbolize?
Governor DeWitt Clinton brought a barrel of water from Lake Erie and poured it into the Atlantic Ocean to show that the Erie Canal connected the two bodies of water.

9. How did the canal boats get from the end of the Erie Canal to New York City?
The canal boats floated down the Hudson River to New York City.

Name: _____ Date: _____

THE AMAZING IMPOSSIBLE ERIE CANAL BY CHERYL HARNESS

1. What problems did early pioneers in New York State face?
Early pioneers to New York State had trouble getting through the thick forests and rough terrain in order to reach the western part of the state. Transportation was on Native American trails and rivers. It took a long time and was expensive.

2. What idea did DeWitt Clinton have to solve these problems?

Name: _____ Date: _____

THE ERIE CANAL

1. What problems did early pioneers in New York State face?

Comprehension questions to go with *The Amazing Impossible Erie Canal* by Cheryl Harness with an alternative page 1 for use with any book about the Erie Canal.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

THE AMAZING IMPOSSIBLE ERIE CANAL BY CHERYL HARNESS

1. What problems did early pioneers in New York State face?

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Name: _____ Date: _____

KEY

THE CANAL BRINGS CHANGE - POPULATION GROWTH

A census is a counting of all the people who live in a place. The United States has conducted a census every 10 years since 1790.

Below is population information from the 1820, 1830 and 1840 censuses for several cities along the Erie Canal.

1825 Erie Canal is completed.

City	1820	1830	1840
Albany	12,630	24,209	33,721
Buffalo	2,095	8,668	
Rochester	1,502	9,201	
Syracuse	250	6,929	
Utica	2,972	8,323	
New York City	123,706	202,589	

Look at the data in the table. What do you observe (remember - don't make inferences yet)?

I notice that the population of New York City grew from 123,706 in 1820 to 202,589 in 1840. It has grown by 78,883 people.

What can you infer about the Erie Canal and these cities?

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Look at the data in the table. What do you observe (remember - don't make inferences yet)?

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Name: _____ Date: _____

THE CANAL BRINGS CHANGE - ECONOMIC GROWTH

	About 1820 (pre-canal)	About 1850 (post-canal)
 Cost to ship one ton of goods from Buffalo to Albany	\$100	\$10
Number of Days to Travel from Buffalo to Albany	14	6
Cost of a plot of land in Buffalo	\$250	\$20,000

Data from ErieCanalway.org

Farmers in western New York wanted to ship their produce across the state and to New York City. Use the table above to explain how the canal helped them.

If a person owned a plot of land in Buffalo (or most any place along the canal), how did the canal help with the value of that land? Why do you think this?

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Formative assessment, study guide & summative assessment. All with keys.

Name: _____ KEY _____ Date: _____

THE CANAL BRINGS CHANGE - SUM IT UP

Economic Growth	The Erie Canal made it faster and cheaper to ship goods. It also made the land around canal more valuable.
Jobs & Businesses	Many businesses that supported the canal started or moved to towns near the canal.

Name: _____ Date: _____

THE CANAL BRINGS CHANGE - SUM IT UP

Population Growth that Lasts	Economic Growth	
Population Growth that Lasts	Jobs & Businesses	
New Towns		
Gateway to the West		

Name: _____ Date: _____



THE ERIE CANAL 3, 2, 1 ABOUT MY LEARNING

Three things I learned today:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Two questions I still have:

- _____
- _____

Label the following on the map:

- Rochester

Name: _____ Date: _____

THE ERIE CANAL STUDY GUIDE

To do well on the Erie Canal Assessment you will need to know the following information. Use the materials from class to help you study.

- What government officials really pushed to have the Erie Canal built?
- What problems did the person above think the Erie Canal might solve?
- Keeping New York's physical features in mind, why was the canal built where it was built?
- How did the Erie Canal help improve the movement of goods and people?
- What were at least five things that were shipped along the Erie Canal?
- What were at least four changes the Erie Canal brought?
- How did the Erie Canal help change the country?

What New York to the World?

How a lock worked.

The Erie Canal brought many changes. List four of them.

How did the Erie Canal help change the country?

Name: _____ Date: _____

THE ERIE CANAL ASSESSMENT



Directions: Using all of the texts and documents, answer the questions below.

Who pushed for New York to build the Erie Canal? _____

What problems did he think it would help solve? _____

Canal built where it was built?



How did the Erie Canal improve the movement of goods and people in New York State?

What were some of the things that were shipped on the Erie Canal? List at least 5.
