

Canal Change Patterns

Trace how an author uses different structures to explain a historical change.

L6-8RHSS5 "Describe how a text presents information (e.g., sequentially, comparatively, causally)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the time-order words, underline comparison words or phrases, and circle cause-and-effect words or phrases. These marks show how the author organizes information in each paragraph.

The Erie Canal Changes New York

- ① In 1817, New York began building the Erie Canal to link the Hudson River with Lake Erie. Workers first cleared forests and dug a channel across the state. Next, they built locks, water-filled chambers that raised or lowered boats where the land changed height. Crews then lined some sections with stone and connected the canal to rivers and streams. Finally, on October 26, 1825, Governor DeWitt Clinton traveled from Buffalo to New York City to celebrate the canal's opening.
- ② Before the canal, merchants often moved western goods by wagon over rough roads or sent them south on long river routes. These choices were slow and costly. By contrast, canal boats carried heavy loads on a level waterway. A boat could carry far more flour, timber, or farm tools than a wagon. Travel by canal was also less expensive, so goods from the Great Lakes region reached eastern markets at lower prices. The canal offered a quicker, cheaper route than most overland travel.
- ③ The canal changed settlement and trade because it connected farmers and merchants to a large market. As shipping costs fell, farmers could sell crops farther from home and buy manufactured goods more easily. Towns grew along the canal because boat crews, warehouses, and shops needed workers. New York City became a busier trade center as goods traveled through its port. The canal did not cause every change by itself, but its route helped speed population growth and business across New York and the Midwest.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does paragraph 1 present the building and opening of the Erie Canal? Name two words that show this organization.

2 How does paragraph 2 compare travel before the canal with travel by canal? Give two differences from the paragraph.

3 What cause-and-effect relationship does paragraph 3 use to explain why towns grew along the canal?

4 How does the author organize the three paragraphs to explain the Erie Canal's importance?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write five sentences about how a railroad, bridge, factory, or other public project changed life in a community. Organize your ideas by cause and effect, and use at least two cause-and-effect words or phrases, such as *because*, *as a result*, or *so*.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Number the time-order words, underline comparison words or phrases, and circle cause-and-effect words or phrases. These marks show how the author organizes information in each paragraph. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does paragraph 1 present the building and opening of the Erie Canal? Name two words that show this organization.	It presents events sequentially, or in time order. Words such as "first," "next," "then," and "finally" show the order.
2	How does paragraph 2 compare travel before the canal with travel by canal? Give two differences from the paragraph.	Before the canal, goods moved by rough roads or long river routes, which were slow and costly. Canal boats carried heavier loads and provided a quicker, cheaper route.
3	What cause-and-effect relationship does paragraph 3 use to explain why towns grew along the canal?	Towns grew because boat crews, warehouses, and shops along the canal needed workers.
4	How does the author organize the three paragraphs to explain the Erie Canal's importance?	The author first gives the canal's construction in time order, then compares transportation methods, and finally explains causes and effects on trade and settlement.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When railroad tracks reached a prairie town, farmers could send grain to distant cities. Because shipping became faster, they could sell more crops. Stores could also receive tools and clothing from other places. As a result, more workers and families moved to the town. The growing population led to more businesses and homes.

Accept accurate descriptions of the passage's sequential, comparative, and causal organization, supported by details or signal words. For Your Turn, accept any plausible historical or community example that uses a clear cause-and-effect chain and at least two cause-and-effect signals.