

Canal Changes Everything

A model of facts and details that develop a historical topic.

L6-8WHST2.b "Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the main idea in each paragraph. Circle every fact, number, place name, or definition that develops that main idea.

How the Erie Canal Changed New York

- ① When the Erie Canal opened in 1825, it changed travel and trade in the United States. The 363-mile waterway connected the Hudson River at Albany to Lake Erie at Buffalo. Before the canal, hauling a ton of goods from Buffalo to New York City could cost about \$100. Canal boats lowered that cost to about \$10, making it easier for farmers to sell grain and other products. The canal gave New York merchants a faster, less expensive route to inland markets than wagon roads provided.
- ② Building the canal required difficult engineering. Workers dug through forests, swamps, and rocky ground, mostly with hand tools, shovels, and animal power. The route had to rise and fall more than 500 feet between the Hudson River and Lake Erie. Engineers solved this problem by building 83 locks, chambers that raised or lowered boats in steps. At Lockport, a five-lock flight helped boats climb a steep section. These details show why the project demanded planning and skilled labor.
- ③ The canal also affected where people lived and worked. Towns such as Rochester, Syracuse, and Buffalo grew along its route because boats carried people, food, and building materials. Rochester's mills used water power from the Genesee River, and canal transport helped send flour to eastern cities. The canal carried settlers westward as well as goods. By linking lake ports with the Atlantic Ocean, it helped New York City become a major center of trade. Its effects reached far beyond the canal banks.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which two cost details support the idea that the canal made trade less expensive?

2 How does the definition of locks help develop the paragraph about engineering?

3 Name two concrete details that develop the idea that canal towns grew.

4 How does the detail about linking lake ports with the Atlantic Ocean support the idea that New York City became a major trade center?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write one 80 to 100 word informational paragraph about a different historical invention, route, or project that changed travel, trade, or daily life. State a clear main idea and develop it with at least three concrete details, including a number, date, or defined term.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the main idea in each paragraph. Circle every fact, number, place name, or definition that develops that main idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two cost details support the idea that the canal made trade less expensive?	Before the canal, hauling a ton of goods from Buffalo to New York City could cost about \$100. Canal boats lowered the cost to about \$10.
2	How does the definition of locks help develop the paragraph about engineering?	It explains that locks were chambers that raised or lowered boats in steps, showing how engineers handled changes in elevation.
3	Name two concrete details that develop the idea that canal towns grew.	Boats carried people, food, and building materials. Rochester's mills used Genesee River water power, and canal transport sent flour to eastern cities.
4	How does the detail about linking lake ports with the Atlantic Ocean support the idea that New York City became a major trade center?	The connection gave New York City access to goods and trade from inland lake ports, helping the city become a major center of trade.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The transcontinental railroad changed travel and trade across the United States after it was completed in 1869. At Promontory Summit, Utah, the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads joined their tracks. A trip from the East Coast to California that once took months by wagon or ship could take about a week by train. Railroad cars carried mail, tools, and manufactured goods west, while eastern markets received cattle and crops. The railroad's faster connection encouraged new towns and businesses along the tracks in many regions.

Accept answers that identify accurate details from the passage and explain how those details support a larger point. For the paragraph, accept a clear topic supported by relevant, concrete historical information rather than a list of unrelated facts.