

Canal Connections

Track how transition words connect ideas in a history model text.

L6-8WHST2.c "Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every word or phrase that signals time or order, an example, cause and effect, contrast, or place. In the margin, label each one with its relationship, such as time, example, cause/effect, contrast, or place.

The Erie Canal Changes Trade

- ① In 1817, New York began building the Erie Canal, a water route from the Hudson River to Lake Erie. At first, many people doubted that workers could cut a canal across forests, hills, and wetlands. Nevertheless, engineers planned locks that lifted or lowered boats between water levels. Workers dug by hand and used horse-powered tools. Meanwhile, towns along the route supplied food, lumber, and stone. The project linked local work to a larger plan for trade.
- ② Construction continued for eight years, and builders faced costly delays. For example, crews sometimes met hard rock that slowed digging. In other places, rain flooded unfinished sections, so workers repaired banks before boats could pass. As a result, the canal cost more than state leaders first expected. Yet they kept funding the work because they believed a water route would move goods more cheaply than wagons could. Finally, the canal opened in 1825 to travelers.
- ③ After the canal opened, travel and trade changed quickly. Before its completion, moving a ton of freight from Buffalo to New York City could take about twenty days. By canal boat, the trip took about eight days. Consequently, farmers near the Great Lakes could send grain east more easily. However, canal growth also changed communities. Some towns became busy ports, while older roads carried less business. Therefore, the canal connected regions, but its benefits were not shared in exactly the same way.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which transition in paragraph 1 signals a contrast? What two ideas does it connect?

2 Name two cause-and-effect transitions in paragraph 2. What cause and effect does each one connect?

3 How does the word Yet clarify the relationship between the canal's high cost and the leaders' actions?

4 How do the phrases After the canal opened and Before its completion help readers understand the change in travel?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly four sentences about how opening a bridge across a river changes a town. Use at least four varied transition words or phrases to show time or order, an example, cause and effect, or contrast.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every word or phrase that signals time or order, an example, cause and effect, contrast, or place. In the margin, label each one with its relationship, such as time, example, cause/effect, contrast, or place. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which transition in paragraph 1 signals a contrast? What two ideas does it connect?	Nevertheless. It contrasts people's doubts with the engineers' plans for locks.
2	Name two cause-and-effect transitions in paragraph 2. What cause and effect does each one connect?	So connects flooded sections to workers repairing the banks. As a result connects the construction delays to the canal costing more than expected.
3	How does the word Yet clarify the relationship between the canal's high cost and the leaders' actions?	Yet shows a contrast. Although the canal cost more than expected, state leaders continued funding it.
4	How do the phrases After the canal opened and Before its completion help readers understand the change in travel?	They compare travel after the canal opened with travel before it existed. They help show that freight travel became much faster.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At first, people crossed the river by ferry, so trips could be slow. For example, farmers sometimes waited hours to bring vegetables to market. After a bridge opened, wagons crossed directly, and local stores received supplies sooner. However, the ferry workers lost customers, so they found other jobs.

Accept accurately identified transition words or phrases and explanations of the relationships they clarify. For the open response, check for exactly four sentences and at least four varied transitions that connect ideas clearly.