

Canal Changes New York

Trace how a canal changed travel, towns, and trade.

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."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each place or waterway in the route from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean, then circle three details that show how the canal changed towns or New York City.

A Water Route Across New York

- ① In the early 1800s, moving goods across New York was slow and costly. Roads could be muddy, and river boats could not travel everywhere. Leaders wanted a water route from the Great Lakes to the Hudson River. The Hudson flowed to New York City and then to the Atlantic Ocean. This route could help farmers and merchants reach markets far away.
- ② Construction on the Erie Canal began in 1817. Workers dug a 363-mile canal across the state, and it opened in 1825. It linked the Hudson River at Albany with Lake Erie at Buffalo. From Lake Erie, boats could travel through the Great Lakes. From the Hudson, boats could continue south to New York City and the Atlantic Ocean.
- ③ The canal made it cheaper and faster to move wheat, flour, lumber, and other goods. Existing towns, including Rochester and Syracuse, expanded as shops, mills, and warehouses served canal traffic. New towns also grew along the waterway. More goods reached New York City, where ocean ships carried cargo farther. By the mid-1800s, New York City had become the country's busiest port.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What transportation problems made leaders want a new water route?

2 Use place names to describe a boat's route from Lake Erie to the Atlantic Ocean.

3 What were two ways the Erie Canal changed towns along its waterway?

4 How did canal traffic help New York City become the country's busiest port?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences as a merchant choosing to ship flour from Buffalo to New York City in 1825. Tell the water route you will use, and explain one way your shipment could help a canal town or New York City.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each place or waterway in the route from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean, then circle three details that show how the canal changed towns or New York City. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What transportation problems made leaders want a new water route?	Roads could be muddy, and river boats could not travel everywhere.
2	Use place names to describe a boat's route from Lake Erie to the Atlantic Ocean.	A boat could travel from Lake Erie at Buffalo through the Erie Canal to the Hudson River at Albany, then south to New York City and the Atlantic Ocean.
3	What were two ways the Erie Canal changed towns along its waterway?	Existing towns expanded, and new towns grew along the canal.
4	How did canal traffic help New York City become the country's busiest port?	The canal brought more goods to New York City, where ocean ships carried the cargo farther.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I will load flour onto a boat in Buffalo and travel on the Erie Canal to the Hudson River at Albany. The boat will continue south on the Hudson River to New York City. My shipment could give a warehouse in a canal town work and add more goods to New York City's port.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the route if they include Lake Erie, the Erie Canal, the Hudson River, New York City, and the Atlantic Ocean in a sensible order. For the open response, accept any accurate three-sentence shipping plan that explains a benefit to a canal town or New York City.