

Canal Trade Changes

Read how relevant information develops an explanation of a historic project.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.2b "Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the definition of a key word, circle four facts or concrete details, and put a star beside two details that show the canal's effects. These kinds of information develop an explanatory topic.

The Erie Canal

- ① The original Erie Canal opened in 1825 after construction began in 1817. Its 363-mile route connected the Hudson River near Albany with Lake Erie at Buffalo. A canal is a human-made channel for boats. This route gave goods a water connection between the Great Lakes and the Hudson River, which leads south to New York City. The dates and distance help readers understand the scale of the project.
- ② Engineers had to move boats between stretches of water at different heights. They used locks: chambers with gates that allow a boat to be raised or lowered. For example, a boat enters a chamber, the gates close, and water enters to raise the boat to the higher level. The original canal was only four feet deep and forty feet wide. These measurements describe the early waterway, not every part of the modern canal system.
- ③ The canal made shipping goods less expensive. Farmers could send products east, while manufactured goods traveled west. Towns along the route, including Rochester and Buffalo, grew as trade increased. New York City also became a more important trading center. These examples explain why the route mattered to communities. A strong explanation connects details to its main idea rather than listing numbers without showing what they mean.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does defining canal help a reader understand the project?

2 What problem do locks solve, and how does the example explain their operation?

3 Choose two measurements or dates. Explain what each helps readers understand.

4 Choose one example in paragraph 3 that shows an effect on communities. Explain the connection.

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one explanatory paragraph of 80 to 100 words for a younger reader about how the Erie Canal connected places and changed trade. Use the passage to include a definition, at least two relevant facts or concrete details, and an example of an effect on a community. Explain how the details develop your topic.

Write your response

Follow the task above. Use the lines below for your complete response.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the definition of a key word, circle four facts or concrete details, and put a star beside two details that show the canal's effects. These kinds of information develop an explanatory topic. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does defining canal help a reader understand the project?	It identifies a canal as a human-made channel for boats, so readers understand what kind of route was built.
2	What problem do locks solve, and how does the example explain their operation?	Locks move boats between different water levels. The example explains that gates close around a boat and entering water raises it to the higher level.
3	Choose two measurements or dates. Explain what each helps readers understand.	Accept 1817/1825 showing the construction period, 363 miles showing route length, or four feet deep/forty feet wide describing the original waterway. Explain the significance of each selected detail.
4	Choose one example in paragraph 3 that shows an effect on communities. Explain the connection.	Rochester and Buffalo grew as trade increased; or New York City became a more important trading center. Accept either example with its connection to the canal and trade.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Erie Canal changed trade by connecting places with a water route. A canal is a human-made channel for boats. The original canal opened in 1825 and stretched 363 miles between Albany and Buffalo. This connection allowed goods to travel between the Great Lakes and the Hudson River. Shipping became less expensive, helping farmers send products east and manufactured goods move west. For example, Rochester and Buffalo grew as trade increased. These changes show how a transportation project can affect the communities along its route.

Accept the definition of canal or locks and relevant marked facts. Effects include less expensive shipping, movement of goods, town growth and increased trade in New York City. Questions allow multiple supported selections. The writing must stay on the assigned canal topic, contain 80-100 words and develop its explanation using the requested information. Historical reference: New York State Canal Corporation, History of the New York State Canals; Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, History and Culture. The passage is a classroom explanation, not a quotation.