The Erie Canal: In the Papers

Before the entire length of the canal was navigable, it was being used for freight and transportation. The middle section opened first, followed by the East, and finally the West. The advertisement below appeared in June of 1824, before the entire canal was even open. Read the transcription of the advertisement and answer the questions on the following page.

TRANSCRIPTION OF ADVERTISEMENT, JUNE 1824:

Erie Canal

PACKET BOATS

The line of Packet Boats from Schenectady to Rochester, will run TWICE each day the ensuing season, by the Utica and Schenectady Packet Boat Company, the Erie Canal Navigation Company, and Western Packet Boat Company, in connection, in the following manner:

A boat will leave Schenectady every morning at 7 o’clock and every evening at 7 o’clock, and arrive at Utica the ensuing morning and evening respectively; immediately on the arrival of which a boat will leave Utica and arrive at Rochester in 46 hours.

A boat will leave Rochester every morning at 7 o’clock and every evening at 7 o’clock, and arrive at Utica in 46 hours; immediately on the arrival of which a boat will leave Utica and arrive at Schenectady in 24 hours.

A daily line will also run from Rochester to Brockport, or further west, should the canal be further navigable in the course of the season.

Stages will be provided to convey passengers from Schenectady to Albany immediately on the arrival of the boats at the former place, and also from Albany to Schenectady on the arrival of the Steam Boats from New York, and from Brockport to Buffalo, Black Rock and Niagara Falls, on the arrival of the boats at Brockport; and also to convey passengers who may wish to go to the principal villages off the line of the canal.

The proprietors assure the public no expense or efforts have been spared to render the accommodations, through the line, ample and satisfactory, and to insure dispatch and punctuality in their operations.

Rates of fare from Utica to Schenectady, $3.50; from Utica to Rochester $6.40, including board.

Albany Daily, June 1824, Albany Institute of History & Art Library

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1. List the cities serviced by the packet boat company in the advertisement on the previous page. Include the cities that are reached by “Stages” at either end of the canal. The “Stages” referred to in the advertisement were large carriages pulled by horses sometimes called Stagecoaches.

1. _____________________________________________________________________________
2. _____________________________________________________________________________
3. _____________________________________________________________________________
4. _____________________________________________________________________________
5. _____________________________________________________________________________
6. _____________________________________________________________________________
7. _____________________________________________________________________________

2. In the year 1824, if you were traveling from New York City to Albany to take a boat on the Erie Canal to Buffalo, what were three methods of transportation you could use to travel between these cities?

1. _____________________________________________________________________________
2. _____________________________________________________________________________
3. _____________________________________________________________________________

3. What times did the boat leave Schenectady? __________ and __________

4. How long did it take to get from Utica to Rochester? ___________________________

5. How long did it take to get from Utica to Schenectady? _________________________

6. How much did it cost to travel from Utica to Schenectady? ______________________

7. How much did it cost to travel from Utica to Rochester? _________________________