



Erie Canalway

Junior Ranger



Canal
Corporation

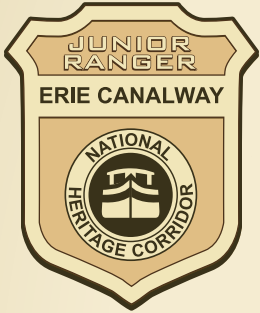
eriecanalway.org

canals.ny.gov



Welcome

to New York State's Canals!



Get ready to go on a canal adventure!

As a Junior Ranger, you will complete fun activities to learn about the New York State Canal System. Complete this activity booklet to earn your official Junior Ranger certificate and badge. Then share what you learned about this place and how to protect it with your family and friends.



This Junior Ranger Booklet belongs to:

I am _____ years old.

New York City

Did you know?

The Junior Ranger Program is a great way to learn about National Parks and Historic Sites all over the United States. Visit the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and New York State's canals to see some of the places you learned about in this booklet.

The New York State Canal System is made up of the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga-Seneca Canals. The canals are operated by the New York State Canal Corporation.

PARTICIPATING JUNIOR RANGER SITES

1. Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site, Buffalo
2. Erie Canal Discovery Center, Lockport
3. Corn Hill Navigation, Rochester
4. Historic Palmyra, Palmyra
5. Seneca Falls Museum & Tourism Center, Seneca Falls
6. Women's Rights National Historical Park, Seneca Falls
7. The Old Erie Canal Heritage Park
8. H. Lee White Maritime Museum, Oswego
9. Camillus Erie Canal Park, Camillus
10. Erie Canal Museum, Syracuse
11. Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum, Chittenango
12. Fort Stanwix National Monument, Rome
13. Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site, Fort Hunter
14. Peebles Island State Park Visitor Center, Cohoes
15. Saratoga National Historical Park, Stillwater

How to Become a Junior Ranger



READ THE INFORMATION

about the places, people, and events in this activity booklet.



COMPLETE THE ACTIVITIES

Ages 5-8: Complete at least 6 activities

Ages 9-13: Complete at least 8 activities



SHOW YOUR COMPLETED BOOKLET

at one of the participating Junior Ranger sites or email a photo of your certificate to junior-ranger@eriecanalway.org.

Whether you show your booklet in person or by email, you will receive a signed certificate, a Junior Ranger badge, and the title of **Erie Canalway Junior Ranger!**

ACTIVITY

1

Dig the Canal

When you travel from one place to another, you might take a car, train, bus, or airplane. Two hundred years ago, none of these ways of getting places were invented yet. People traveled on foot or horseback, by horse-drawn carriages, and by boat. It took a long time to get from one place to another.

New York State decided to build canals to make it easier and faster for people and goods to travel. When the Erie Canal opened in 1825, it was a huge success! People and goods floated across the state more quickly than ever before.

The Erie Canal connected the Hudson River at Albany with the Great Lakes at Buffalo. Boats could travel from the Atlantic Ocean to New York City, up the Hudson River, and west to the interior of America.

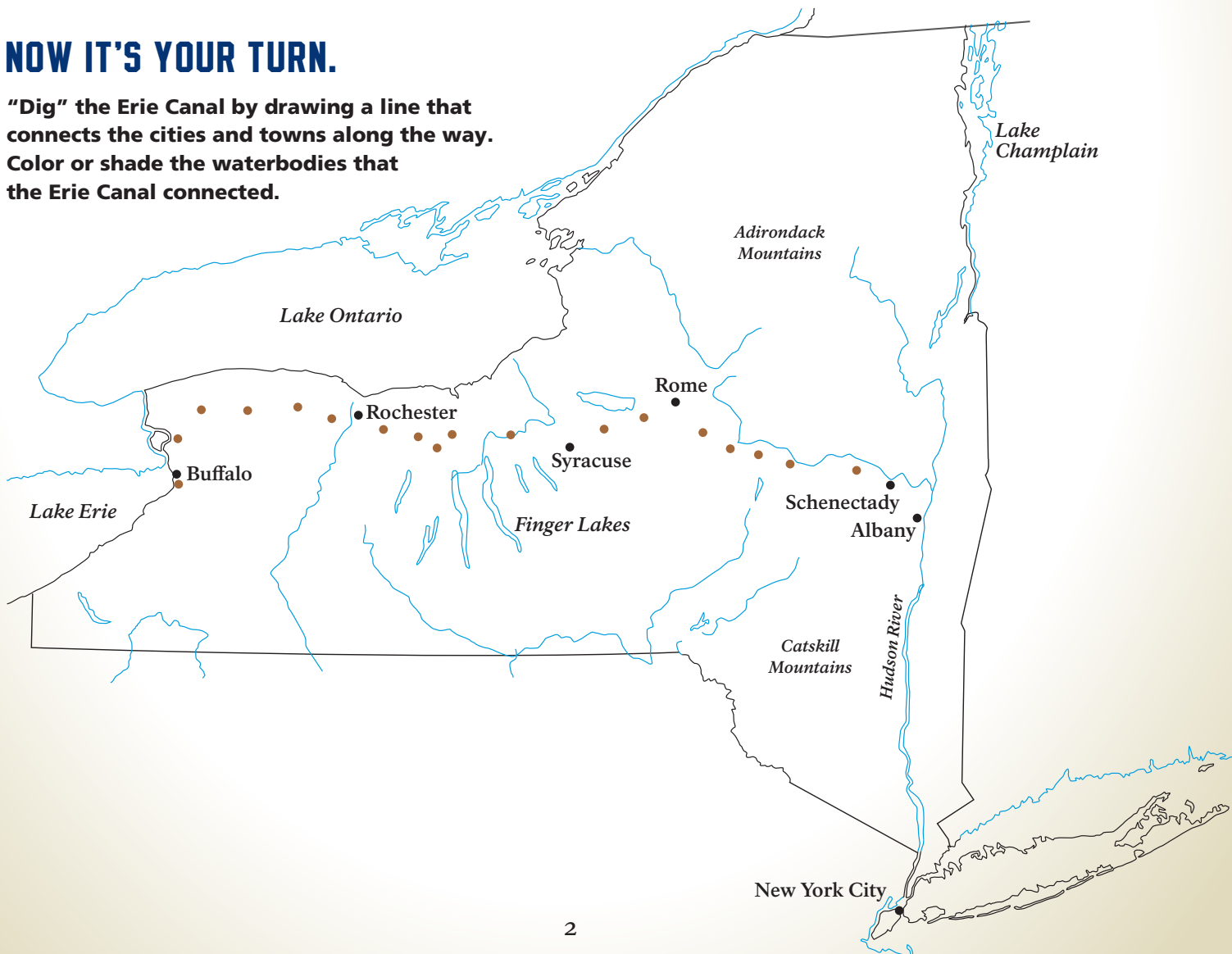


DID YOU KNOW?

Before the Erie Canal opened, it took about 14 days to go from Albany to Buffalo by horse-drawn carriage. After the canal opened, the same trip only took about 6 days. Today you can drive from Albany to Buffalo in about 5 hours.

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.

"Dig" the Erie Canal by drawing a line that connects the cities and towns along the way. Color or shade the waterbodies that the Erie Canal connected.



ACTIVITY

2

Word Search

Canal boats carried all sorts of goods, just like trucks and tractor-trailers do today. **Complete the word search to find things that boats carried on the Erie Canal.**

LIST OF GOODS

Apples

Brooms

Cheese

Clothing

Coal

Flour

Furniture

Hay

Lumber

Salt

Tools

Wheat



C	O	A	L	A	G	B	Q	T	E
D	F	B	P	F	L	O	U	R	C
R	O	R	U	P	E	N	U	A	S
I	T	O	O	L	S	T	Y	P	Z
C	L	O	T	H	I	N	G	P	H
H	M	M	C	N	F	R	H	L	A
E	P	S	R	J	K	Q	I	E	Y
E	T	U	W	H	E	A	T	S	M
S	F	X	L	U	M	B	E	R	V
E	L	S	A	L	T	I	N	T	B

JUST FOR FUN!

Count the number of trucks you see while driving on a highway or major road. Can you tell what they are carrying?

Number of Trucks You Saw: _____

List of Goods They Were Carrying:



Connect the Dots

So many boats wanted to use the Erie Canal after it opened that there were often traffic jams. New York State decided to make the Erie Canal deeper and wider so that more and bigger boats could travel on it. After boats with motors were invented, New York made the canal much larger again, making way for big ships to use it.

Learn about how the Erie Canal changed over time. Then Connect the Dots to complete your own picture of a canal boat.

BONUS: Give your Tugboat a name by writing it in the blank box on the front.

1825-1862

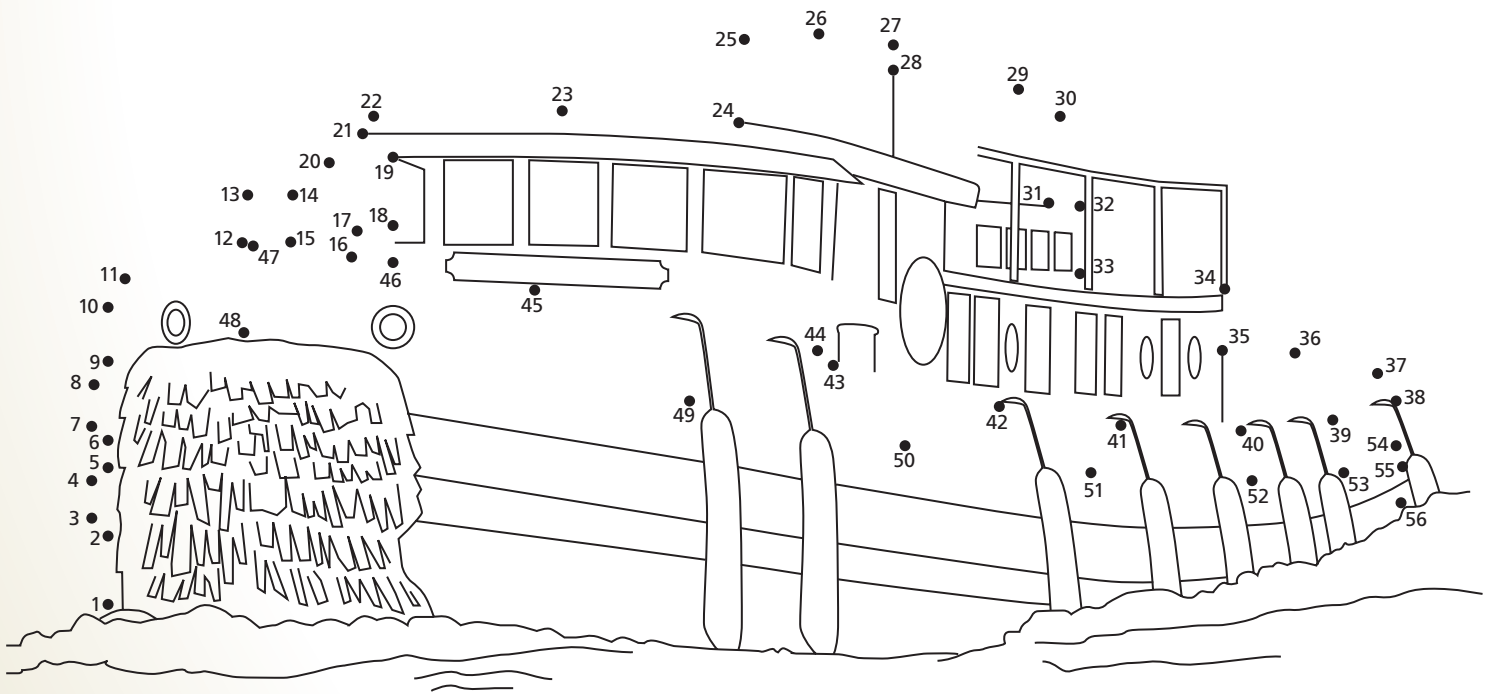
THE "ORIGINAL" ERIE CANAL

Four feet deep and 40 feet wide



Packet Boats

Boats used by people traveling on the Erie Canal. They had set routes and schedules, like airplanes and trains today.



1862-1918

THE "ENLARGED" ERIE CANAL

Seven feet deep and 70 feet wide



Freight or "Line" Boats

"Working boats" used to carry goods.



Barge

A large boat with a flat-bottom used to carry bulk products and heavy goods.

1918-Today

NEW YORK STATE BARGE CANAL

Twelve to 23 feet deep and 120-200 feet wide



Tug Boats

Powerful boats that can push or pull other boats.



Recreational Boats

A boat used for fun or travel.



Human-powered Boats

Boats such as canoes, kayaks, and paddle boards are popular on the canal today.

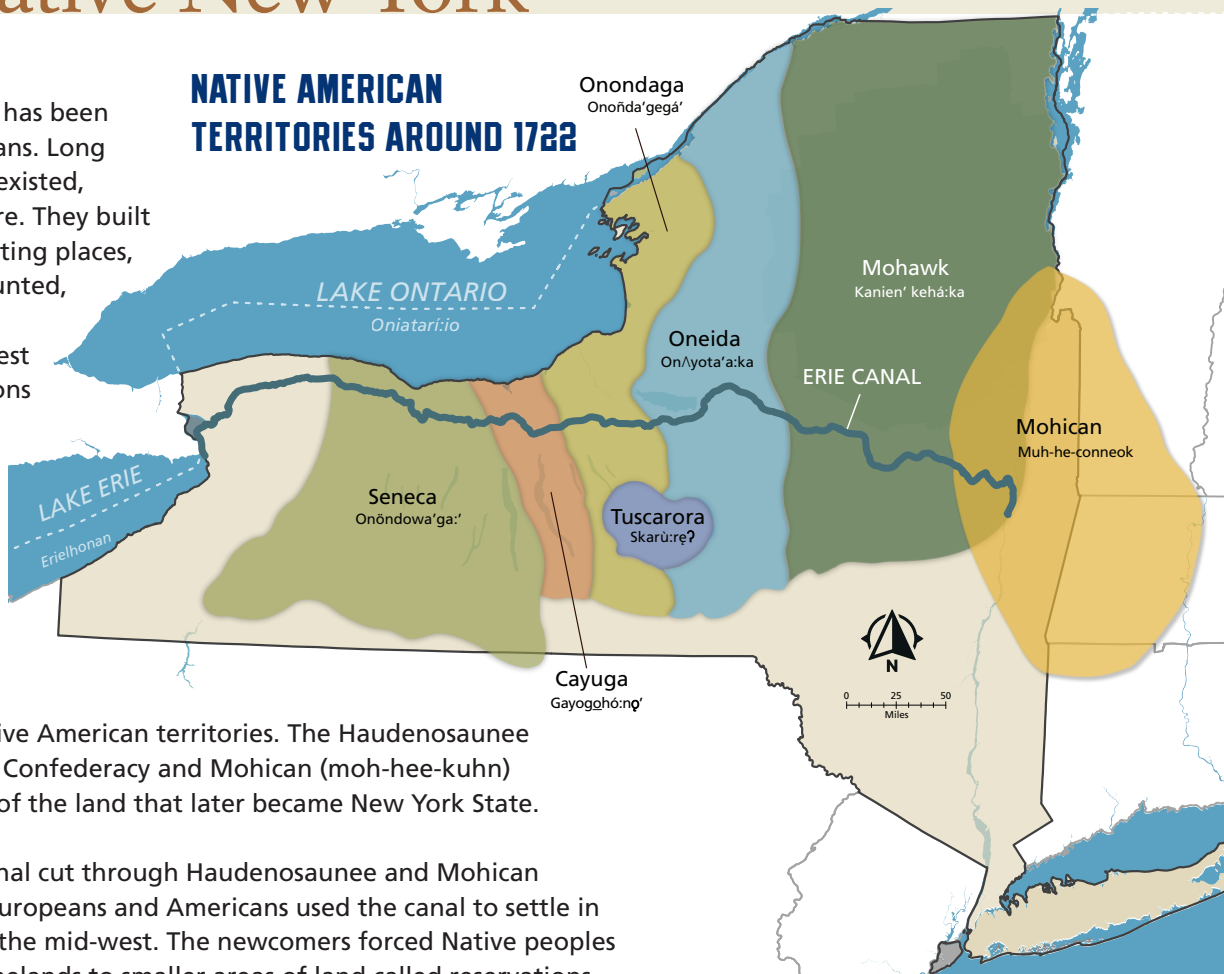
ACTIVITY

4

Native New York

New York is and always has been home to Native Americans. Long before New York State existed, Native peoples lived here. They built homes, towns, and meeting places, and they grew crops, hunted, and fished its lands and waters. Some of their best ideas for making decisions and getting along with neighboring nations became a model for America's founders.

NATIVE AMERICAN TERRITORIES AROUND 1722



Look at the map of Native American territories. The Haudenosaunee (hoe-dee-no-show-nee) Confederacy and Mohican (moh-hee-kuhn) Nations spanned much of the land that later became New York State.

When built, the Erie Canal cut through Haudenosaunee and Mohican territories. Millions of Europeans and Americans used the canal to settle in New York and move to the mid-west. The newcomers forced Native peoples to move from their homelands to smaller areas of land called reservations.



HAUDENOSAUNEE CONFEDERACY

The Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, and Tuscarora nations make up the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. The Haudenosaunee Confederacy was founded on the Great Law of Peace. This law declares a basic respect for the rights of all people. The law has three principles: Righteousness, Justice, and Health. The Great Law of Peace is one of the earliest examples of a democratic government.

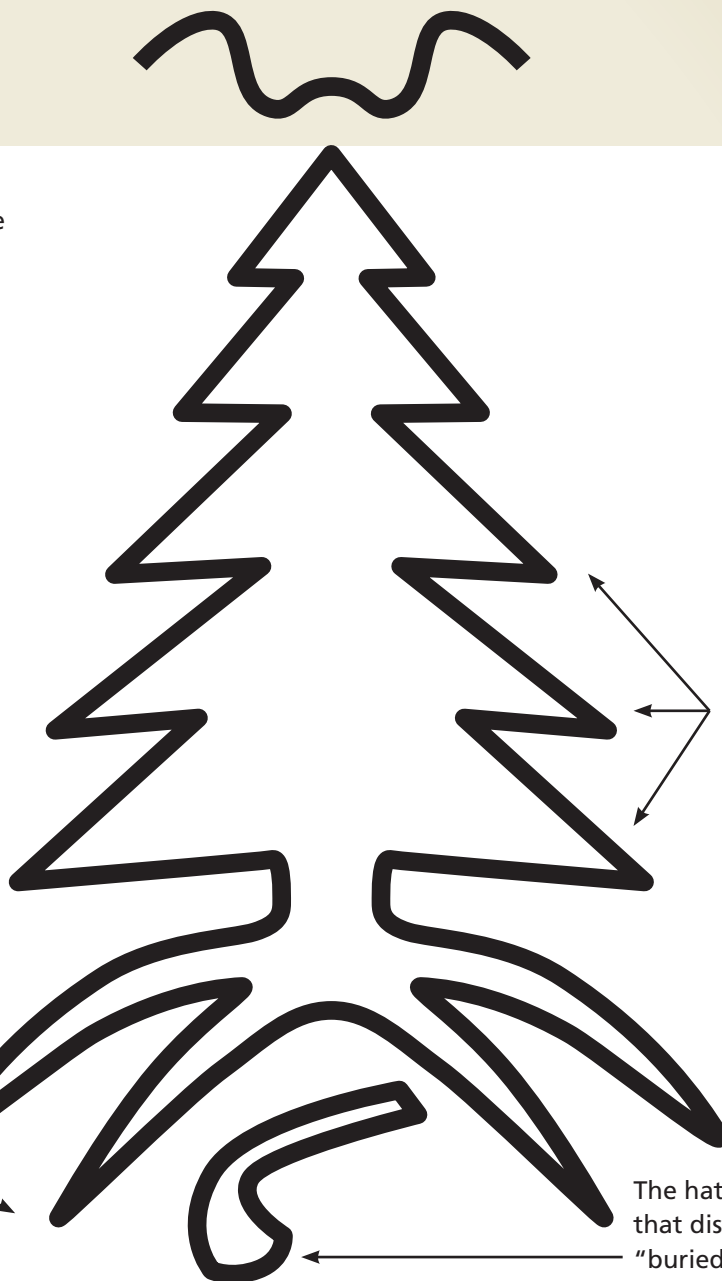
THE TREE OF PEACE

The Haudenosaunee use a white pine tree called the Tree of Peace to show The Great Law of Peace.

CREATE YOUR OWN TREE OF PEACE

Think of three words or actions that make you or others feel sad or mad. Write them in the boxes below the Tree of Peace to "bury" them on your path to a peaceful life.

Read more about the Peacemaker story.



The roots show the paths of peace that lead to the heart of Haudenosaunee territory.

The branches represent protection and security.

The hatchet represents things that disturb peace and are "buried" under the tree.

ACTIVITY

5

Find Your Roots

The Erie Canal opened at a time when many immigrants arrived in the United States. People came from many countries looking for a better life, to find work, seek religious freedom, or to escape from war. What do you think it was like for them to move to a new country?

THE STORY OF THOMAS

Thomas Wilson was five years old when his family moved from Scotland to America in 1833. The family arrived in New York City before traveling up the Hudson River to Albany. They then took a boat on the Erie Canal to Rochester where his father bought a farm. Thomas was too young to remember much about Scotland or their journey to America. But when Thomas turned ten years old, he asked his parents to tell him about Scotland and their relatives who stayed behind.

PRETEND YOU ARE THOMAS. What kinds of questions would you ask? What things would you want to know about your family history?

Your family has interesting stories, too. Ask a family member these questions or ones you think of yourself. Write down what you learned about your family history.

How far back
can we trace our family?

If our family moved from
one place to another, what places has
our family lived before? What were some
of the reasons for moving?

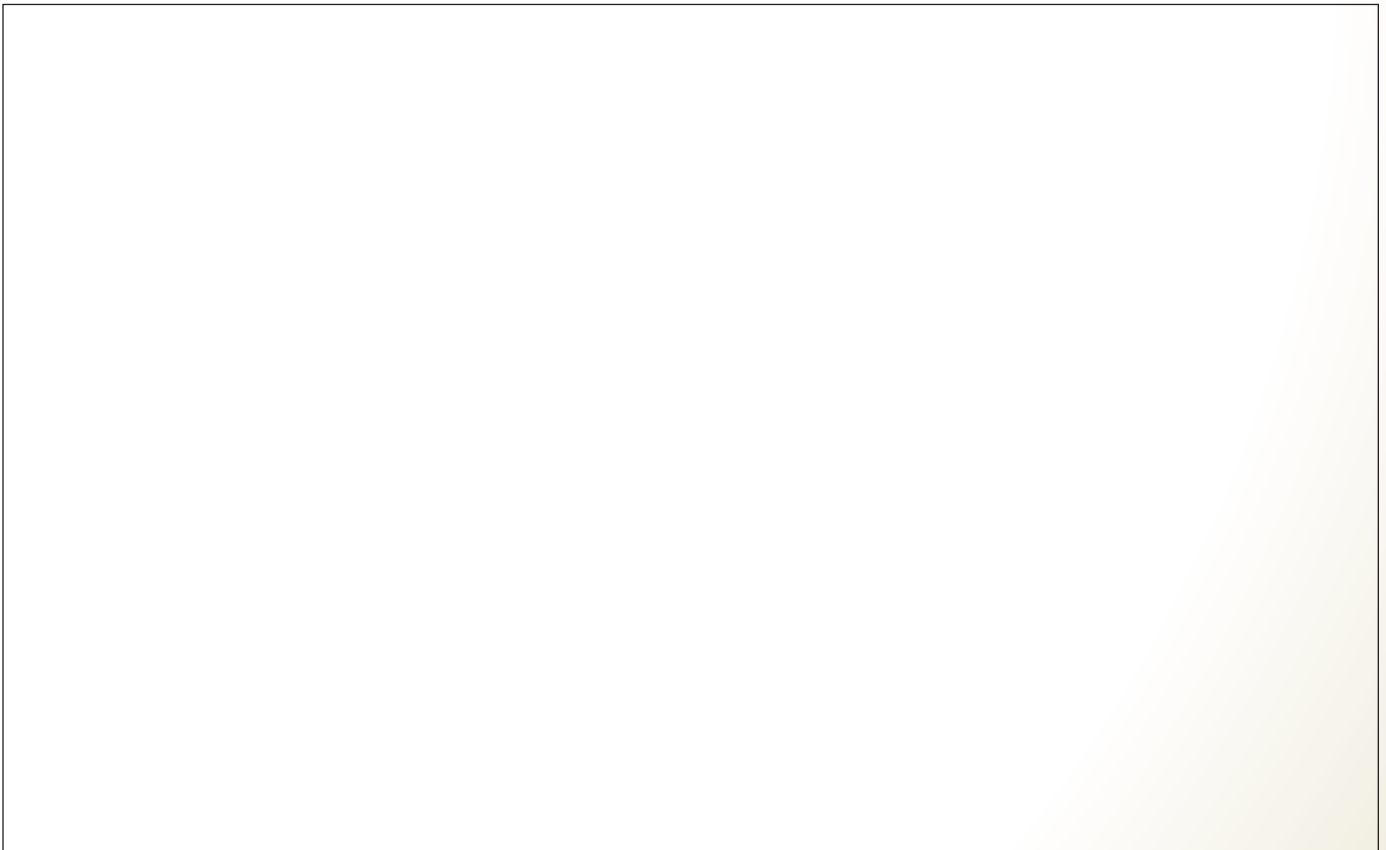


Does our family carry on any special traditions or eat special foods that were passed down to us?



These girls are doing an Irish step dance at a festival that celebrates Irish heritage.

BONUS: Draw a picture that shows something special about your family.

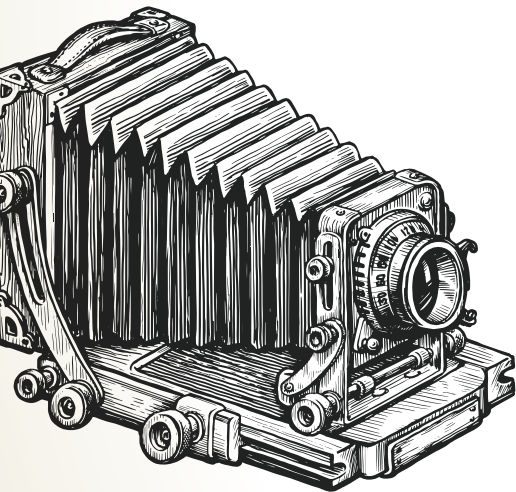


Spread the Word!

The Erie Canal carried more than people and goods. It also helped to spread information, ideas, and new ways of thinking. One big idea spread by the Erie Canal was that women and men of all races should be treated freely and equally.

The canal was also a route on the Underground Railroad. This was a secret network of routes, safe houses, and people who helped enslaved people gain freedom.

Learn about some of the men and women who were important in the fight for equal rights.



Don't smile! The people in these photos look very serious. That's because smiling was frowned upon by early photographers.



SUSAN B. ANTHONY wanted women to be able to vote. She stood up for her beliefs and even was arrested for illegally voting in 1872. Susan gave speeches and organized people to come together to spread the word about women's right to vote.

WHERE TO VISIT

Susan B. Anthony Museum & House
Rochester, NY



FREDERICK DOUGLASS was born an enslaved person. He escaped from slavery when he was 20 years old and rose to become a powerful speaker and promoter of equality for all. Frederick moved to Rochester in 1847. He wrote a newspaper called *The North Star* to spread the word about ending slavery.

Mt. Hope Cemetery
Rochester, NY



MATILDA JOSLYN GAGE promoted women's rights, anti-slavery, and Native American rights. She was the youngest speaker at the 1852 National Women's Rights Convention in Syracuse. In 1871 she organized several women to attempt to vote in her hometown of Fayetteville, New York.

Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation
Fayetteville, NY



STEPHEN AND HARRIET MYERS were leaders who fought against slavery. They helped thousands of people on their journeys to freedom by making their house in Albany a stop on the Underground Railroad.

Underground Railroad Education Center
Albany, NY



ELIZABETH CADY STANTON moved to Seneca Falls, New York, in 1847. There she became an important leader in the fight for women's rights. Elizabeth helped to organize the First Women's Rights Convention in 1848. She wrote the "Declaration of Sentiments" to spread the word about how to treat women fairly and equally with men.

Women's Rights National Historical Park
Seneca Falls, NY



HARRIET TUBMAN was a leader on the Underground Railroad. Harriet was born enslaved in Maryland. After escaping from slavery, she helped many others get to freedom. Harriet moved to Auburn in 1859 where she continued to fight for civil rights for the rest of her life.

Harriet Tubman National Historical Park
Auburn, NY

CREATE A BANNER OR SIGN:

In 1908, Elizabeth Cady Stanton's daughter, Harriet, organized a women's rights canal boat journey. They started in Seneca Falls and traveled to cities along the Erie Canal. On the way, the women held signs and waved huge banners to promote their cause.

Do you have something you care enough about that you would carry a banner for? Create your own banner or sign to support a cause you care about.



ACTIVITY

7

Canal Structures Word Scramble

Canals use a lot of cool structures to operate! Learn more about the types of structures built to keep the canal running for over 200 years.



LOCK—A “water elevator” used to raise and lower boats on canals. A lock lifts or lowers boats when the water level on one part of a canal is higher or lower than another.



FLIGHT OF LOCKS—A series of locks used when the change in water level in one spot is more than one lock can handle.



WEIGHLOCK—A special lock once used to weigh boats. Boats had to pay a toll based on the weight and type of goods they carried during the 1800s.



MOVABLE DAM—A dam is a structure that slows down or stops water from flowing. A movable dam can be moved up or down to allow boats to travel on the canal.



LIFT BRIDGE—A bridge that is raised up to allow boats to pass underneath.



AQUEDUCT—A “water bridge” once used to carry the canal and the towpath across a stream or river.

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble these letters to form the words matching the canal structures.
Use the letters in the circles to find the answer to the bonus word!

FLTI RDEIGB

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KOCL

--	--	--	--	--

OGWKHLECI

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

EDCLHRCITEYOR LATPN

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AOEMLVB AMD

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UCAEUDTQ

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

TGFLHI FO CSLKO

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

BONUS WORD:

A path which ran along the canal. Horses and mules walked on the path towing boats using a rope.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



HYDROELECTRIC PLANT—A powerplant which uses flowing water—like a waterfall—to create electricity.

THE NEW YORK STATE CANAL CORPORATION is responsible for keeping New York State's four canals—the Erie, Champlain, Cayuga-Seneca and Oswego—running. It is the largest state-run inland waterway system in the United States.

Bonus Word Answer: TOWPATH.
Many of the original towpaths are a part of the Canalway Trail for you to explore!

Back to Nature

New York's canals and trails are home to many animals and plants. Here are a few examples of wild animals you may see along the canal.

INSECTS



Monarch Butterfly



Dragonfly



Bumblebee

BIRDS



Great Blue Heron

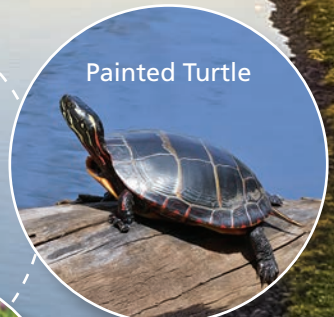


Osprey



Mallard

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS



Painted Turtle



Snapping Turtle



Bullfrog

MAMMALS



White-tailed Deer



Muskrat



Chipmunk

USE YOUR SENSES

Explore part of the canal and share what you find. Sit quietly along the canal and use your senses to write or draw what you discover.

THREE THINGS I SEE

1

2

3

THREE THINGS I HEAR

1

2

3

THREE THINGS I FEEL

1

2

3

Connect the Drops

Water from the Erie Canal is used for many things. It is used for farming, recreation, industry, and power plants. It's also important for wildlife, plants, and a healthy environment.

Nearby streams and water from rain and storms flow from the land into the Erie Canal. If garbage or pollution isn't properly disposed of, it can be carried by water into the canal. This can injure animals, pollute the water, and harm plants. Protecting against pollution is important for keeping our waterways healthy!

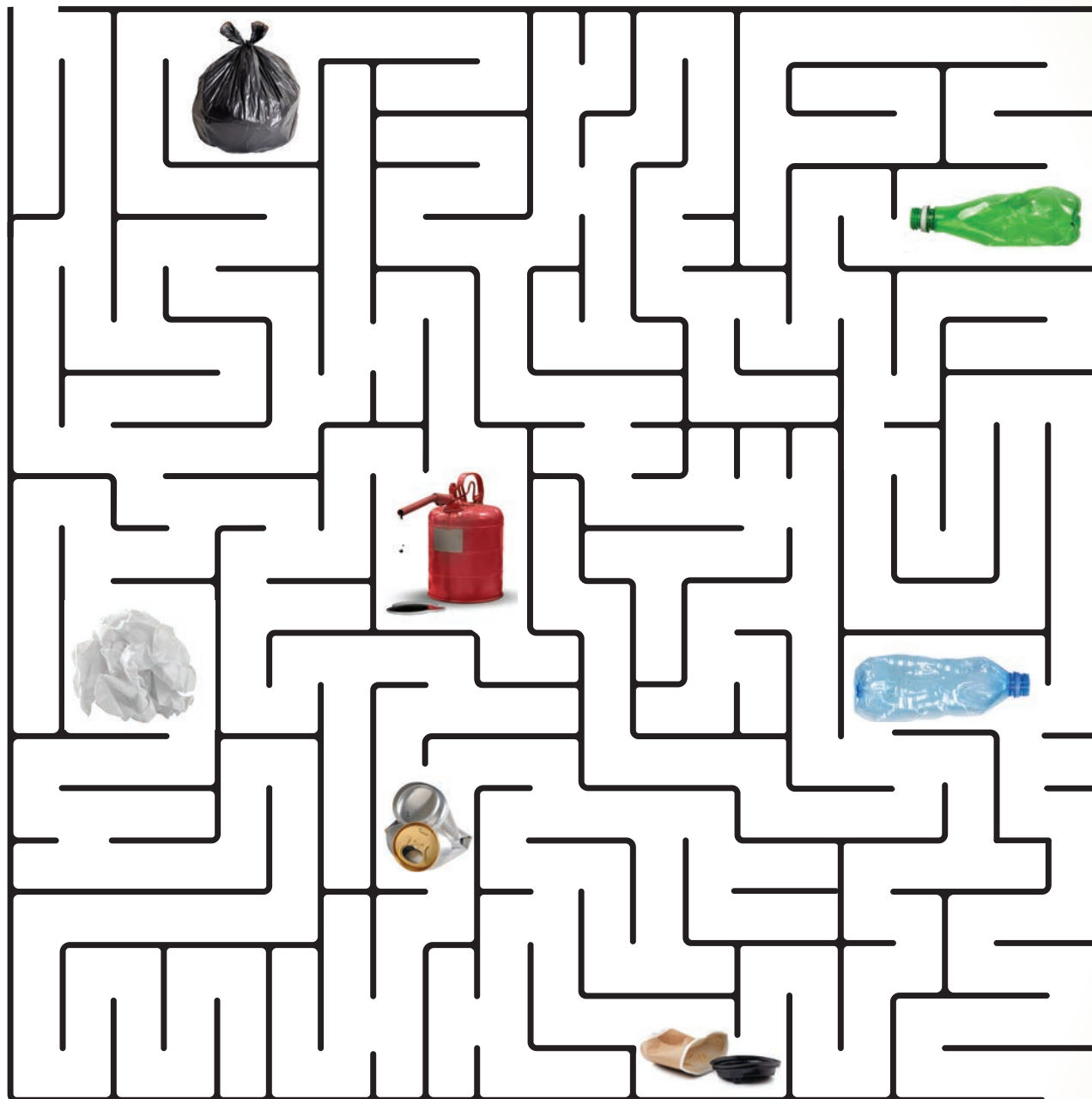


START

WATER POLLUTION MAZE



Follow the drop of water along its path to the canal.



FINISH

What type of pollution did your water drop carry into the canal? _____

What things can you do to keep the canal clean and healthy? _____

ACTIVITY

10

Along the Trail

Do you like exploring and playing outdoors? Lots of people come to the Erie Canal to walk, ride bikes, go boating and fishing, and learn about history.



Go for a walk or bike ride along the canal and keep count of the activities you see people enjoying. Mark every time you see someone:

Walking

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Running

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Walking a dog

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Riding a bicycle

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Paddling a kayak, canoe, or standup paddleboard

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Boating

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Fishing

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Watching wildlife

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Most Popular _____

What's your favorite thing to do along the canal? _____



ARE YOU READY FOR A CHALLENGE?

Put on your sneakers or hop on your bike to complete the Canalway Challenge! Start with the 1st Mile Challenge or try 15 Miles. You'll get a certificate, sticker, and magnet when you complete your miles.



Scan here to sign up for free.



On THE CANALS



On the Canals offers free activities all year long for people of all abilities. Choose from kayaking, biking, hiking, birding, fishing, snowshoeing, and more.

Scan the QR code above to learn more.

National Treasure

The United States Congress created the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor in 2000. This honor recognizes the Erie Canal's importance to New York State, the nation, and our history. The National Heritage Corridor includes 524 miles of canals and more than 200 communities across upstate New York. The New York State Canal System was also named a National Historic Landmark in 2016. This makes it one of the most important historic sites in the United States.

This is a place that has been important to many people. Share a place that is important to you and the reasons why it is a place you care about.

A place that is important to me is

It is important to me because

WHAT IS A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA?

National Heritage Areas (NHAs) are created by the United States Congress to recognize places that had a significant impact on our nation's history. They are places where you can see important sites, touch history, and hear stories of the people who shaped America. National Heritage Areas help to preserve these important places and invite people to experience, enjoy, and protect them.





Junior Ranger Certificate

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor

I, _____,

promise to share my discoveries with others, encourage my family and friends to protect special places, be a friend of nature and a champion of history, and get out and explore!

I have completed the following activities:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ 1. Dig the Canal | ☐ 7. Canal Structures Word Scramble |
| ☐ 2. Word Search | ☐ 8. Back to Nature |
| ☐ 3. Connect the Dots | ☐ 9. Connect the drops |
| ☐ 4. Native New York | ☐ 10. Along the Trail |
| ☐ 5. Find Your Roots | ☐ 11. National Treasure |
| ☐ 6. Spread the Word | |

Congratulations!

You have now completed the requirements to become an official Junior Ranger.

STAFF OR VOLUNTEER SIGNATURE



This Junior Ranger activity booklet was developed through a partnership between Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and the New York State Canal Corporation.



In partnership with the National Park Service



eriecanalway.org

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