

QUESTION 8 — PAGE 1

The Erie Canal: People on the Canal



Erie Canal on Bridge Street North Albany, photograph, c. 1910, Albany Institute of History & Art Library, 1993.010.10230P

The travels of Native Americans and newcomers from Europe were guided by the paths of North America's inland waterways. Once opened in 1825, the Erie Canal offered a new waterway for newcomers to travel and establish towns and cities in our nation's interior.

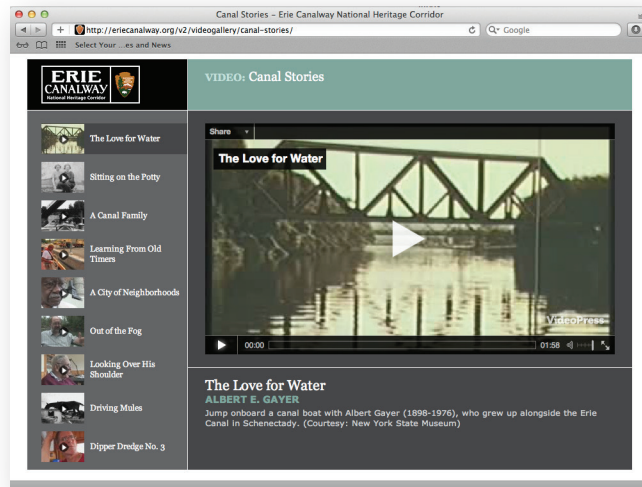
The Erie Canal also linked people back to hometowns, families, and markets on the East Coast and in Europe. The canal tied together our people and economy as our nation grew throughout the 1800s.

In the middle of the 19th century, immigrants living in the New England states flooded into Upstate New York to take advantage of land that was both inexpensive and fertile. Nationalities included Irish, German, and Dutch and many others. These new settlers found that owning or working on a canal boat was a great first step towards saving enough to purchase land and start a new home.

Many of the stories of people who lived and worked along the canal were captured for future generations.

QUESTION 8 — PAGE 2

The Erie Canal: People on the Canal



Watch one of the videos on the **Canal Stories** section of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor's website: <http://eriecanalway.org/v2/videogallery/canal-stories/>

1. What is the title of the video you watched? _____
2. What is the name of the person being interviewed? _____
3. List three things you learned about the Erie Canal from the video:
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
4. Do you think you could live or work the way the person in the video described life on the canal?
 _____ yes _____ no
5. Why or why not? _____

