

QUESTION 9 — PAGE 1

The Erie Canal: Growing Our State and Nation

	Before Erie Canal c. 1820	c. 1850
Cost of ton of freight from Albany to Buffalo	\$100	\$10
Number of days travel Albany to Buffalo	14	6
Number of U.S. States	23	31
Population of Utica	2,972	17,565
Population of Rochester	1,502	36,403
Population of Buffalo	2,095	42,261
Population of Albany	12,630	50,763
Cost of plot of land in Buffalo	\$250	\$20,000



Albany, NY, c. 1820, Albany Institute of History & Art, 1944.22.1.13

Read the chart above. Using your math skills, answer the questions below.

1. Which city had the largest increase in population between 1820 and 1850? _____
2. How many days of travel were saved by taking a boat on the Erie Canal from Albany to Buffalo? _____
3. How much more would it cost to buy a plot of land in Buffalo in the year 1850 than if you had purchased it in 1820? _____
4. How many states were added to the U.S. between 1820 and 1850? _____

QUESTION 9 — PAGE 2

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Using your answers to the previous questions, choose a statement from the list below and write a 250-word essay to support that statement. Cite evidence from maps, documents, charts, and images provided with those questions.

- A. The Erie Canal is a conduit conveying people, goods, and ideas.
- B. The Erie Canal is the key to the changing pattern of transportation in the U.S. in the nineteenth century.
- C. The Erie Canal was the most important public works project of the nineteenth century.
- D. The Erie Canal helped to create an American identity, tying newly formed states into the fabric of the Union.
- E. The Erie Canal launched New York as the Empire State.



Albany, NY, c. 1850, Albany Institute of History & Art, U1977.64