

Name _____

Fact Sheet about the Erie Canal

1. The Canal was started in 1817. The Canal was finished in 1825.
2. It took eight (8) years to build the Canal.
3. The length of the Canal was 363 miles. It was 40 feet wide and 4 feet deep.
4. The Canal's nickname was Clinton's Ditch.
5. The Canal connected Albany (the Atlantic Ocean) and Buffalo (Lake Erie).
6. There were 18 aqueducts and 83 locks.
7. The total rise in the water was 568 feet.
8. It cost \$7,143,789.00 to build the Canal and it was paid for with tolls.
9. To carry one ton of freight by canal boat, it cost \$6.00 and took 9 days. To carry one ton of freight by horse drawn wagon, it cost \$125.00 and took 15-45 days. Going by canal boat saved \$119.00 and 6-36 days in travel time.
10. The Canal stopped operating in 1917.
11. It stopped operating because the NYS barge canal was opened and the Canal was losing money. The competition from the railroads was also a major factor.
12. The speed limit on the Canal was 4 miles/hour.
13. Packet boats traveled 80 miles in 24 hours.
14. The boats carried immigrants, supplies, e.g., potatoes, flour, apples, lumber, and manufactured goods, e.g., guns, tools and furs.
15. Canal children had to tend the animals, help on the boats, and go to school.

16. The children went to school from December to March. During that time the Canal was closed. The Canal was closed because of the ice.

17. People on the Canal attended church on the church boats and in churches along the Canal.

18. People on the Canal shopped at stores near locks or widewaters.

19. A captain on the Canal earned \$30.00 a month. A steersman earned \$15.00, a steward earned \$12.00, a horstler earned \$10.00 and a cabin boy earned \$4.80.

20. A canal boat cost \$1,500-\$5,000. It cost through passengers 5 cents per mile with meals and lodging to travel on the Canal.

21. A packet boat was pulled by 3 horses and a line boat was pulled by 2 mules.

22. Boats were able to pass each other without tangling the line because one boat would move to the berme side, the rope would sink and then the other boat could pass it.

23. Bridges were so low because they took less lumber and less time to build.