

The Farmers' Museum
Economic Impact of the Erie and Chenango Canal

Name _____

Date _____

The Erie Canal
363 Miles from Albany to Buffalo



Use the following chart to answer questions

Erie Canal Rate and Time for Shipping Goods in 1840
From Buffalo to New York City

Method of Shipping or Travel	Cost Per Ton	Travel Time
Wagon or Stagecoach	\$100.00	14 days
Canal Boat	\$5.00	5 days

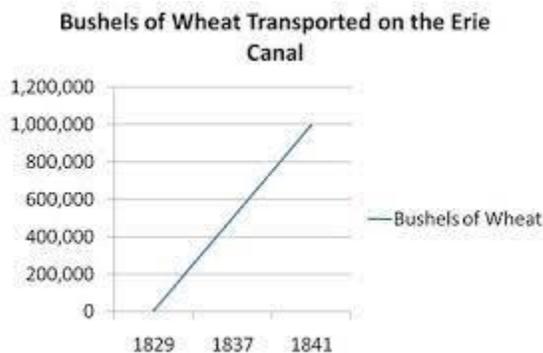
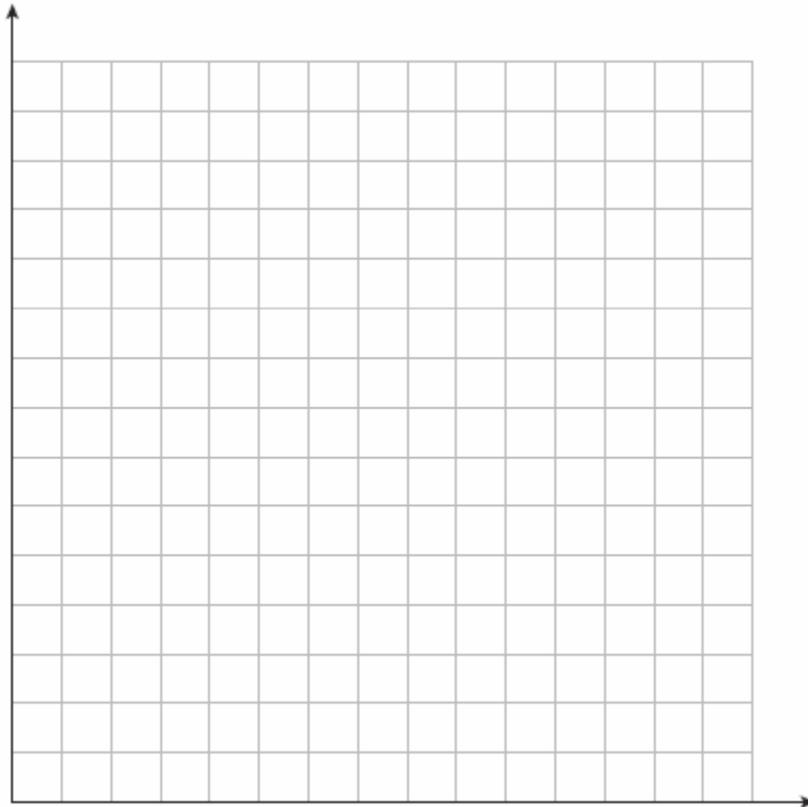
1. If Farmer Walters has 8 tons of wheat to move to New York City, how much does it cost to ship his goods:
 - a. by wagon? _____
 - b. by canal boat? _____
2. Which method is cheaper for Farmer Walters to use? _____
 - a. How much does he save by using this method? _____
3. How many days does Farmer Walters save by shipping his wheat by canal boat instead of by wagon?
4. Based on the above information, what impact do you think the Erie Canal had on the economy of New York State west of Albany?

Making a Line Graph

“In 1829, there were 3,640 bushels of wheat transported down the Erie Canal from Buffalo to New York City. By 1837 this figure had increased to 500,000 bushels; four years later it reached one million bushels of wheat.”

<https://www.canals.ny.gov/history/history.html>

Directions: Using the information given in this quote, make a line graph. Provide a title, label the x and y axis, and draw the line on the form below.



“The effect of the Canal was both immediate and dramatic, and settlers poured west. The explosion of trade prophesied by Governor Clinton began, spurred by freight rates from Buffalo to New York of \$10 per ton by Canal, compared with \$100 per ton by road. In 1829, there were 3,640 bushels of wheat

transported down the Canal from Buffalo. By 1837 this figure had increased to 500,000 bushels; four years later it reached one million. In nine years, Canal tolls more than recouped the entire cost of construction.”

<https://www.canals.ny.gov/history/history.html>

	Before Canal	After Canal
NYC – Buffalo	50 days	8 days
Shipping	\$100/ton	\$32/ton
Population #'s	1820	1850
Rochester	1,502	36,403
Buffalo	2,000	42,261
New York City	125,706	515,547
New York State	1,372,851	3,097,394

The population of Albany quadrupled from 1824 – 1850

<https://eriecanalimpacts.weebly.com/>

Before the canal was built, it took between 9 and 13 days to ship goods by wagon from Binghamton to Albany, for a cost of \$1.25 per 100 pounds. A canal boat made the trip in less than four days and cost \$.25 per 100 pounds. Records also show an example of a fare on a packet line that ran between Norwich and Binghamton. The fare was \$1.50 per person, departing at 6 am, arriving sometime between 6 and 8 pm.

Population Expansion: