



**Broward County Public
Schools Videoconference**

Communities And Reading TOUR

Lesson: Erie Canal, Niagara Falls, and Detroit
Instructor: Evelyn Nelson, BECON Distance Learning Teacher

Grade Level: Grade Three

Sunshine State Standards: LA.A.2.2, LA.B.2.2, SS.A.2.1, and SS.A.5.1

Benchmarks: LA.A.2.2.1, LA.B.2.2.1, SS.A.2.1.2 and SS.A.5.1.1

Infusion Points: Language Arts and Social Studies

Objective(s):

1. Students will write notes, comments, and observations that reflect comprehension of content presented during the class.
2. Students will determine the main idea from a text.
3. Students will understand how the differences in water and land travel between today and the early 1800's.
4. Students will be able to identify at least one contribution Henry Ford made to the American economy.



Fuel for Thought

barge – A flat-bottomed boat.

canal – A waterway that is built by people.

lock – The part of a canal in which the level of water can be changed by letting water in and out.

manufacture– To make goods.

Literature Emphasis

Book Title: The Amazing Impossible Erie Canal

Author: Cheryl Harness

Publisher: Aladdin Paperbacks: New York, NY. (1999)

Summary: A picture book that describes the history of the Erie Canal.

Book Title: Travels Across America: The Northeast

Author: Elspeth Leacock

Publisher: National Geographic Society: Washington, D.C. (2002)

Summary: This book looks at the geography, economy, and way of life in the northeast portion of the United States.

Book Title: Travels Across America: The Midwest

Author: Elspeth Leacock

Publisher: National Geographic Society: Washington, D.C. (2002)

Summary: This book looks at the geography, economy, and way of life in the Midwest portion of the United States.

Music Integration

Song Title: *Erie Canal*

Description: American Work Song

Publisher: Share the Music, Grade Five. (1995). New York, NY. Macmillan/McGraw Hill School Publishing Company. p.T 154. (CD3:30)

Activities

- The videoconference instructor will review the *Fuel for Thought* vocabulary words
 - Students will copy down the words without the definitions.
 - Part of the follow-up to this lesson will be defining the vocabulary words.
- Instructor will show today's travel route from New York City to Niagara Falls and Detroit, Michigan on a roadmap.
- Instructor will read excerpts from the The Amazing Impossible Erie Canal (pgs. 1-8)
- A Power-point presentation containing pictures of the Erie Canal will be shown while students listen to the song, *The Erie Canal*.
 - Power-point
 - Music
- Instructor will read excerpts from Travels Across America: The Northeast

Read & Ask Questions about Niagara Falls.

- *Pg. 9*
 - What two lakes are connected by the Niagara River? *Lake Erie and Lake Ontario*
 - In which two countries is Niagara Falls located? *USA and Canada*
 - What is the name of the waterfall located in New York? *American Falls*
 - What is the name of the waterfall located in Canada? *Horseshoe Falls*
- Instructor will read excerpts from Travels Across America: The Midwest

Read & Ask Questions about the Great Lakes.

- *Pg. 8*
 - How many Great Lakes are there? *five*
 - What is the largest freshwater lake in the world? *Lake Superior*

Read & Ask Questions about Detroit.

- *Pg. 13 & 16*
 - What does Detroit manufacture? *Cars*
 - Who built the first *Model T* car? *Henry Ford*
 - Why did Henry Ford build the *Model T*? *He wanted to make a good car that working people could afford to buy.*

Assignment

- Students will define the vocabulary words and expand their journal entries.

Materials Needed

- “Travel Journal” and a pencil for each student

Lesson Extension

The Erie Canal: History and Pictures

<http://www.eriecanal.org/index.html>