

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Impact of the Erie Canal

**Directions: For each document, determine the impact the Erie Canal had on New York City.**

#### Document 1:

Cadwallader Colden bragged that ‘this extensive channel’ would make New York ‘one of the greatest commercial cities in the world. But even he underestimated the speed and extent of the canal’s impact.

Within the year, Erie boatmen were steering forty- two barges a day through Utica, bearing a thousand passengers, 221,000 barrels of flour, 435,000 gallons of whiskey, and 562,000 bushels of wheat. Shipping costs from Lake Erie to Manhattan dropped from a hundred dollars a ton to under nine dollars. A few more years of this brought the annual value of freight transported along the canal up to fifteen million dollars, double that reaching New Orleans by the Mississippi; by mid-century the figure would approach two hundred million. Enough money would be collected in tolls—nearly half a million dollars the first year alone—to repay the cost of construction and help fund an additional six hundred miles of canals in the state over the next fifteen years.

<b>Impact: What effect did the Erie Canal have on New York City?</b>	<b>Evidence: Quote that supports your impact</b>
<b>The Erie canal impacted New York City by:</b>	<b>According to document 1:</b>

#### Document 2:

By 1830—less than two decades after construction began on the Erie Canal—New York had overtaken Philadelphia as the nation’s main money market. Its banks controlled significantly more money ... The New York Stock and Exchange Board handled a greater volume of stocks, and its prices, quoted in newspapers throughout the country, were not the norm everywhere. So, too, the collective assets of the city’s insurance companies exceeded those of Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore combined.

<b>Impact: What effect did the Erie Canal have on</b>	<b>Evidence: Quote that supports your impact</b>
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<b>New York City?</b>	
<b>The Erie canal impacted New York City by:</b>	<b>According to document 2:</b>

**Document 3:**

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.

Within 15 years of the canal's opening, New York was the busiest port in America, moving tonnages greater than Boston, Baltimore, and New Orleans combined.

<b>Impact: What effect did the Erie Canal have on New York City?</b>	<b>Evidence: Quote that supports your impact</b>
<b>The Erie canal impacted New York City by:</b>	<b>According to document 3:</b>