

Week 7: The Erie Canal Challenge

Complete the following tasks to earn a Raffle Ticket for each family member who participates

- ◇ Check out images of the Erie Canal through the years at <https://www.eriecanal.org/east-1.html#Canajoharie>
- ◇ Read about what a canal and lock is on the attached page
- ◇ Watch a video about a canal lock in action and then visit the Erie Canal Lock on Spring Street in Palatine Bridge. Take a picture of your family at the Lock to share with the Library.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1gIm1oU9Oo>
- ◇ Do the Erie Canal walking challenge!



Canals

Canals are waterways that are built by people and used for shipping, travel and irrigation. Canals have been an important way to move goods and carry people for more than 5,000 years.

Some canals make it possible for boats to travel inland from oceans and lakes. A canal may also serve as a shortcut between two bodies of water. Other canals carry drinking water to cities or irrigation water to farms.

Building a canal

To make a canal, builders dig a long channel in the ground and fill it with water. The water usually comes from a connecting river, lake, or ocean. Builders often line the canal with stone, concrete, or steel to make it stronger. The lining also prevents the water from leaking out.

Locks

Locks are an important part of many canals, especially in areas where the land is not completely flat. A lock is a stretch of canal blocked off at each end by strong gates. These gates can be opened or closed to allow water to fill or drain from the lock.

Locks allow boats to travel between lower and higher areas of a canal. When a boat enters a lock, the gates close behind it. Water then fills or empties from the lock through small openings called sluice gates. When the water in the lock reaches the level of the next part of the canal, the gates in front of the boat open. The boat then passes out of the lock.

Famous canals

The world's oldest canal still being used today is the Grand Canal in China. It is also the world's longest canal, with a length of about 1,085 miles (1,747 kilometers).

The **Erie Canal** connects the Hudson River in New York with the eastern shore of Lake Erie, near Buffalo, New York. The Erie Canal was an important shipping route in the 1800s.

The **Suez Canal** in Egypt connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea. The major shipping canal is the shortest water route between Europe and the Indian Ocean.

The **Panama Canal** is an important shortcut between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Before this canal was built, ships had to travel around the tip of South America to get from one ocean to another.

In Venice, Italy, people use canals as roadways. In the oldest parts of the city, people travel by boats called gondolas instead of cars.

The Erie Canal Walking Challenge

Step 1: Set a goal for your family.

Our family pledges to walk _____(miles/minutes) on the Erie Canal Pathway.

Step 2: Track your progress!

Day

Miles/Minutes

Total:

Step 3: At the end of the week (or when you complete your challenge) turn in your log to the Library.

Book recommendations for the Erie Canal Challenge

The Erie Canal pirates by Eric A. Kimmel, JP Fict Kim (Stories)

The book boat's in by Cynthia Cotton; JP Fict Cot (Stories)

The Erie Canal; JP Fict Eri (Build, Drive and Ride)

Timmy O'Dowd and the big ditch: a story of glory days on the old Erie Canal by Len Hilts; J Fict Hil

The amazing impossible Erie Canal by Cheryl Harness; J 974.7 Har

The Erie Canal by Ralph K. Andrist; J 974.7 A

The Erie Canal by Andrew Santella; J 386.48 San

The Erie Canal by Martha Kendall; J 386.48 Ken

Waterway west: the story of the Erie Canal by Mary Kay Phelan, J 974.7P

Erie Canal: canoeing America's great waterway by Peter Lourie; J 974.7 Lou

Low bridge!: folklore and the Erie Canal by Linoel D. Wyld; R 386 Wyl

Cruising America's waterways: the Erie Canal by Debbie Daino Stack; 386.48 Sta

Oh! That low bridge: songs of the Erie Canal by George Ward, CD War