

Hunter College of the City University of New York
Department of Geography
Geography of New York State
EXERCISE 13- EXTRA CREDIT

Canals of New York State
Due no later than the date of the final exam.

The purpose of this exercise is look at the site and situation of important historic canals of New York State. The Erie Canal and its segments and the Champlain Canal were built by NYS but the Delaware and Hudson Canal was built by a private company. There are also a number of lesser known public and private canals built during the “Canal Era.”

Visit the following web sites and read about the canals.

<http://www.eriecanal.org> – Erie Canal
<http://www.canals.ny.gov/links/index.html> - click on **MAPS** then the segments
http://www.nyscanals.gov/cculture/history/finch/finch_history_print.pdf
<http://www.nyscanals.gov/cculture/history/finch/index.html>
<http://www.nyscanals.gov/faq/index.html> - present day FAQs
<http://www.eriecanalway.gov/> -National Park Service link
http://www.eriecanalway.gov/documents/2011_ErieCanalway_Map-Guide_final_web.pdf - NPS brochure
<http://www.eriecanalway.gov/documents/ERCAunigrifinal.pdf> - Erie Nat'l Heritage Corridor brochure
<http://www.nps.gov/upde/historyculture/dhcanal.htm> - Delaware and Hudson Canal

ASSIGNMENT: *This is not a county-based assignment. However if a canal is located in or passes through one of your counties, you may want to use it for this exercise, but that is optional.*

Select one segment of the main Erie Canal or one of the other NYS canals and do the following:

- 1. Discuss its geographic significance.** (What was the purpose of its route; what points did it connect?)
- 2. Discuss its geologic setting.** (How did the rock type and landforms it passed over affect construction in this segment?)
- 3. Discuss the engineering technology** needed to overcome aspects of the physical environment. (What characteristics or hardships of the route had to be overcome and how?)
- 4. Identify, locate and describe one visitor center or overlook** along the canal where people may visit the site and learn about it. (See also the *Moon Handbook* and the *I Love New York* web page (www.iloveny.com – type in the name of a canal into the search box location within the *I Love NY* logo at the top of the page.)
- 5. Include a map** showing the route of the canal or canal segment discussed with the location of the visitor center.

Education Students check out: www.archives.nysed.gov/projects/eriecanal/index.shtml.