

WHAT PRICE PROGRESS? THE STORY OF THE WABASH AND ERIE CANAL

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GRADE LEVEL: Secondary

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What Price Progress?



LESSON PLAN
The Wabash and Erie Canal

MATERIALS:

Teacher background: Read "What Price Progress: The Story of the Wabash and Erie Canal." Read other materials listed in the bibliography.

Student information packet

Teacher-made materials

TIME:

Teacher choice: from 1 to 5 class periods

EVALUATION:

Cooperation within group
Construction of appropriate projects
Teacher test

STUDENT OBJECTIVES:

To:

1. Review the geography of Indiana so that the student will understand the effect it had on the transporting of goods by the pioneer.
2. Brainstorm the concept of canal transportation and analyze the advantages and disadvantages of this system.

DAY 1: CONTINUATION OF TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS IN INDIANA

I. Review

a. Flannel board

1. Review the fundamentals of _____

V. SHOULD THE WABASH AND EIRIE CANAL BE BUILT WITH FEDERAL FUNDS?

1. History

- a. Reference in the Northwest Ordinance
- b. Recommendation by George Washington
- c. In 1808 the Report on Roads and Canals recommended a Federally funded unified system of roads and canals. This was not accepted, but the idea was being considered.

2. Issues advocating the canal

1. 1811 Battle of Tippecanoe

DAY 3: CONSTRUCTION OF THE CANAL

- I. HAND OUT ITEM #8: "EARLY YEARS DOCUMENT 71 - CANAL WORKERS BROADSIDE (1837)"
 - a. Have students get into small groups. Itemize the benefits received by workers who were employed by the Central Canal Company. Have students ask parents or other adults about benefits received by construction workers today. Have students in the group compare responses for 1990 with list for 1837.
 - b. Have students review the location of the Central Canal
- II. HAND OUT ITEM #9: CANAL DAYS IN INDIANA"
Have students read and do activities
- III. OPTIONAL: The Wabash and Erie Canal in Fountain County (Use maps)
 1. Hand out copies of map of Warren and Fountain Counties (not included) and use maps as guide to the following article.
 2. HAND OUT ITEM #10: "THE WABASH AND ERIE CANAL"
Have students pantomime the "Attica-Covington War." What was the result of this episode? (Use an other information from this article)
 3. Have students work in groups to construct a canal boat and a canal lock. Use a shoe box for the lock and poster board for the boat. Students can demonstrate how the boat travels through the canal
- IV. HAND OUT ITEM #11: THE CLEARANCE RECORDS AT COVINGTON
Students can determine the types of boats and cargos that travelled along the Wabash and Erie Canal.

II. How did it all end?

- a. 1838 - bills could not be paid and work stopped
- b. 1839 - Indiana faced bankruptcy
- c. 1841 - the Wabash and Erie Canal reached the mouth of the Tinnegance

The following is a list of the items a pioneer family would need if they came to central Indiana in the 1820's and 1830's:

TOOLS

ITEM #1

cross-cut saw
planes
draw knife
chisels
hammers
shovels

reaping hooks
harrow
bags or barrels for storage
chains
forks and rakes (made of wood)
scoops

augers or bits
adzes
saws
cant hook

horses - plus harness or oxen
cows for milk
pigs for meat