

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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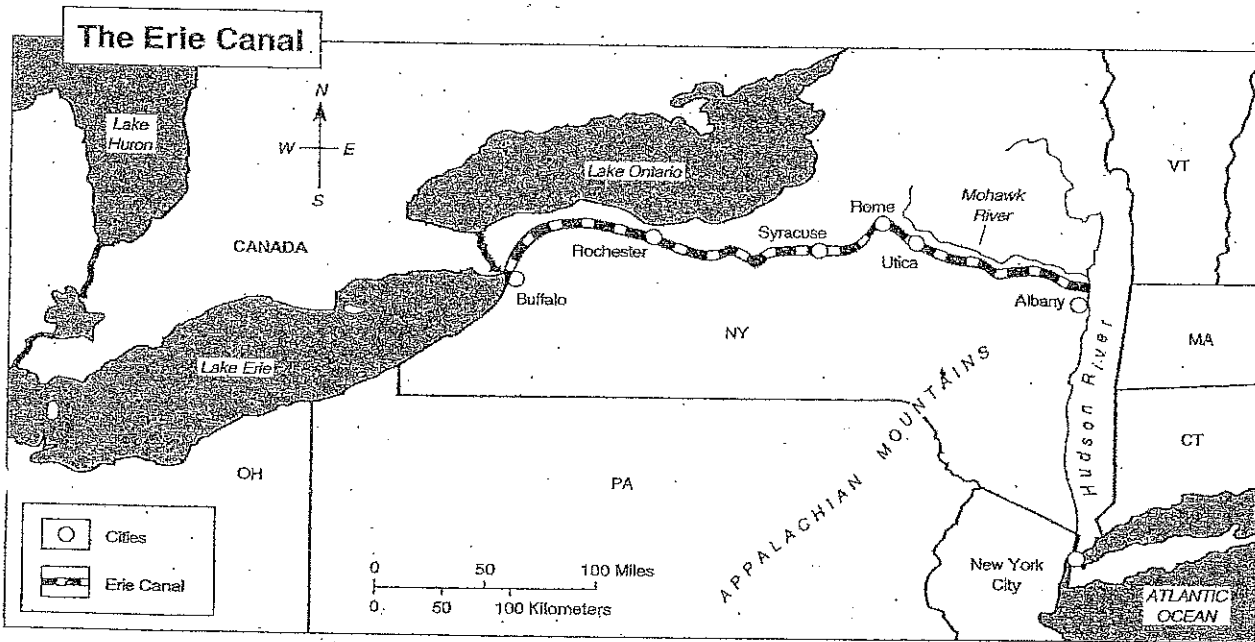
Critical Thinking

# Drawing Conclusions

## The Building of the Erie Canal

The Erie Canal was built through 350 miles (560 km) of wilderness at a cost of \$7,143,790. Construction began on July 4, 1817, when Governor DeWitt Clinton turned the first shovelful of dirt, and the canal was opened for business on October 26, 1825. The map below shows the waterway created by the building of the Erie Canal.

Directions: Study the map. Then, answer the questions that follow.



1. Which bodies of water did the Erie Canal connect?  
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2. To celebrate the completion of the canal, Governor Clinton poured a barrel of water from Lake Erie into the Atlantic Ocean. What do you think this act symbolized?  
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3. Why do you think New York City became the most important commercial port in the nation after the building of the canal?  
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4. How do you think the building of the Erie Canal affected westward expansion? Give reasons for your answer.  
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