

## QUESTION 2 — PAGE 1

## The Erie Canal: Yesterday and Today



1. Entrance of the Canal into the Hudson



2. Aqueduct Bridge at Rochester

James Eights was an artist who grew up in Albany. He also was a scientist, naturalist, historian, and writer. James lived next door to one of the Erie Canal Commissioners who asked James to join the team that documented the building and opening of the canal. He led groups of students along the canal on scientific journeys in its first years of use. His drawings are the best source we have for visual information about what the canal looked like when it opened.

James Eights, 1823, Watercolor and pencil on paper, Albany Institute of History & Art, Gifts of James Eights, 1836.1.5; .3; .4



3. Aqueduct Bridge at Little Falls

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Complete the double-bubble graphic organizer below by listing similarities between the Old Erie Canal that opened in 1825 and the Barge Canal that we use today. Similarities should be placed in the center section of the diagram, respective differences to the right and left of the diagram. Each bubble should contain at least one feature. Upon completion, write a short descriptive essay to compare and contrast the Old Erie Canal with today's Barge Canal.

Use the drawings by James Eights on the previous page for information about the canal when it opened.

Go to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor's website to see photographs of the canal today:  
<http://www.eriecanalway.org/gallery.php>

