

The Glowing Aura* of the Erie Canal

PART ONE: The Erie Canal was tremendously successful because it *connected* two important North American waterways. Since the canal stretched from Buffalo to Albany, it connected the _____ to the _____. Then steamboats took goods to New York City and to the world beyond. How much influence a place or region has is known in geography as its **aura**. Look at the maps in the *Atlas of New York: Legacies of the Erie Canal* on page 22. Compare the first two maps (*Population Density in 1810* and *Population Density in 1860*). Write one sentence on what you observe:

The map at the bottom of page 22 is titled “*Increase in Population 1810-1860*.” What two parts of the state grew the most during this fifty-year period? _____ and _____. Why do you think that happened? _____

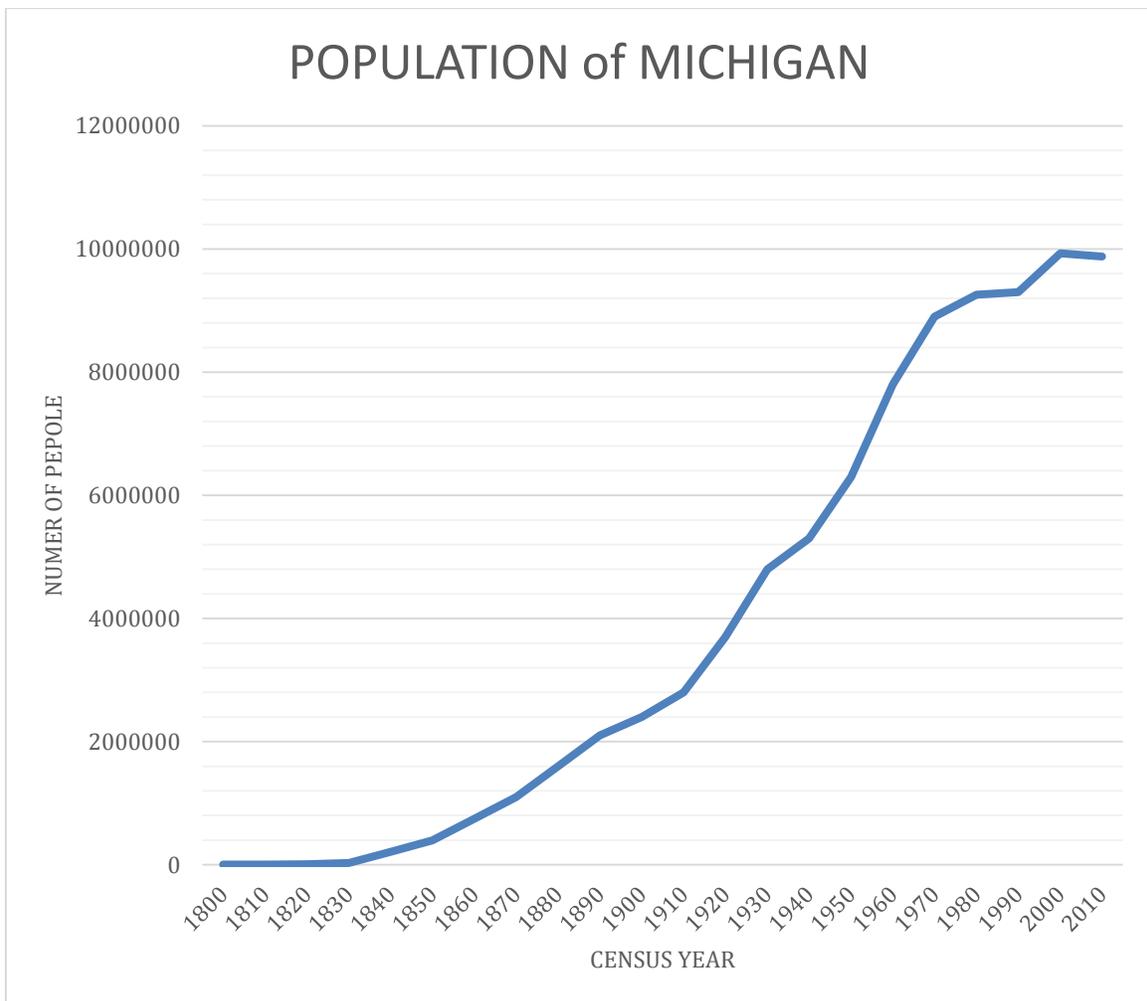
There is a line graph showing Population Growth for New York City and Philadelphia. In 1790 they both had a population of _____ people. But in 1850, New York City had _____ people and Philadelphia only had _____ people. Why was this so?

PART TWO: There is a map of the Great Lakes on the next page. What do the **red lines** on the map represent? _____

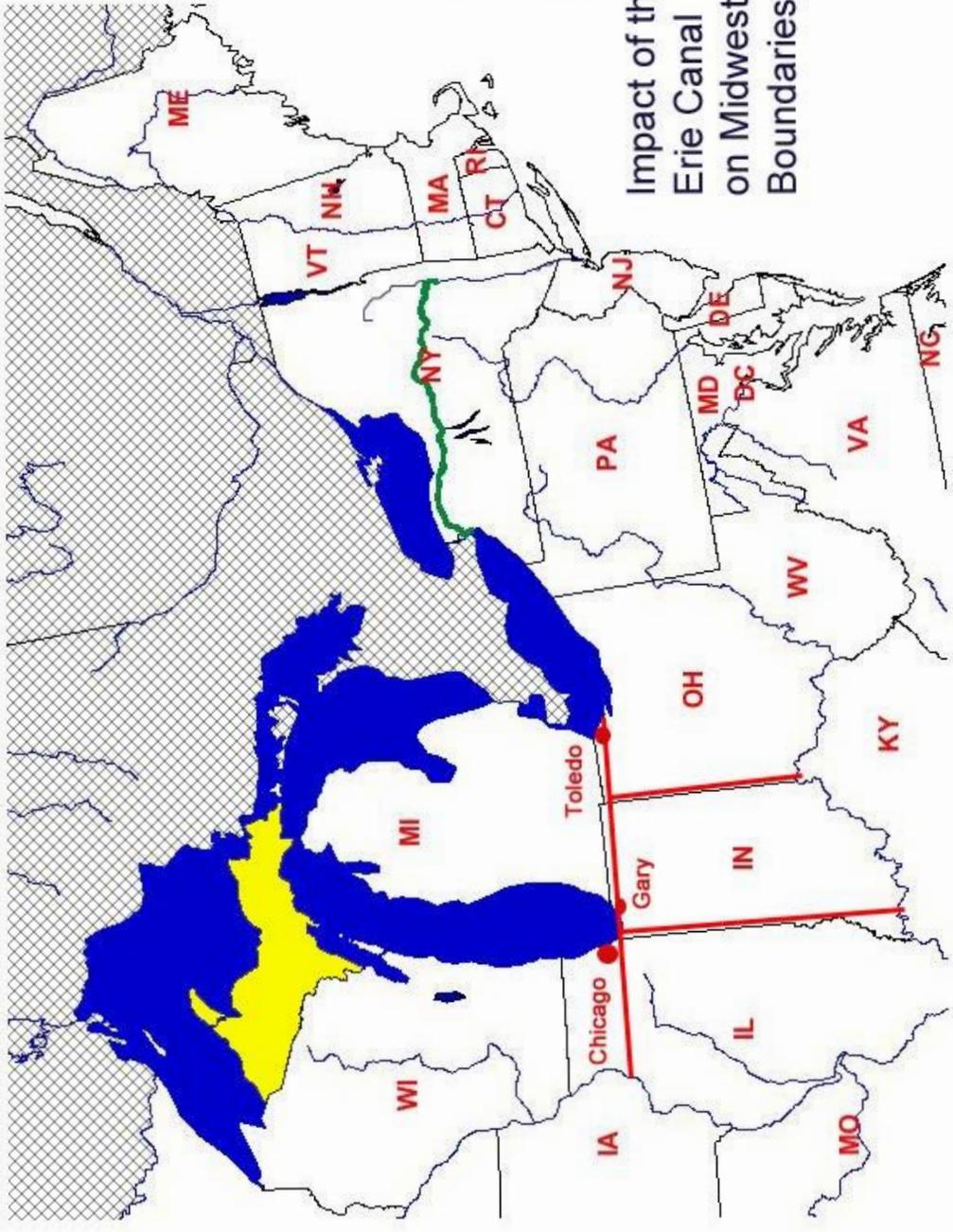
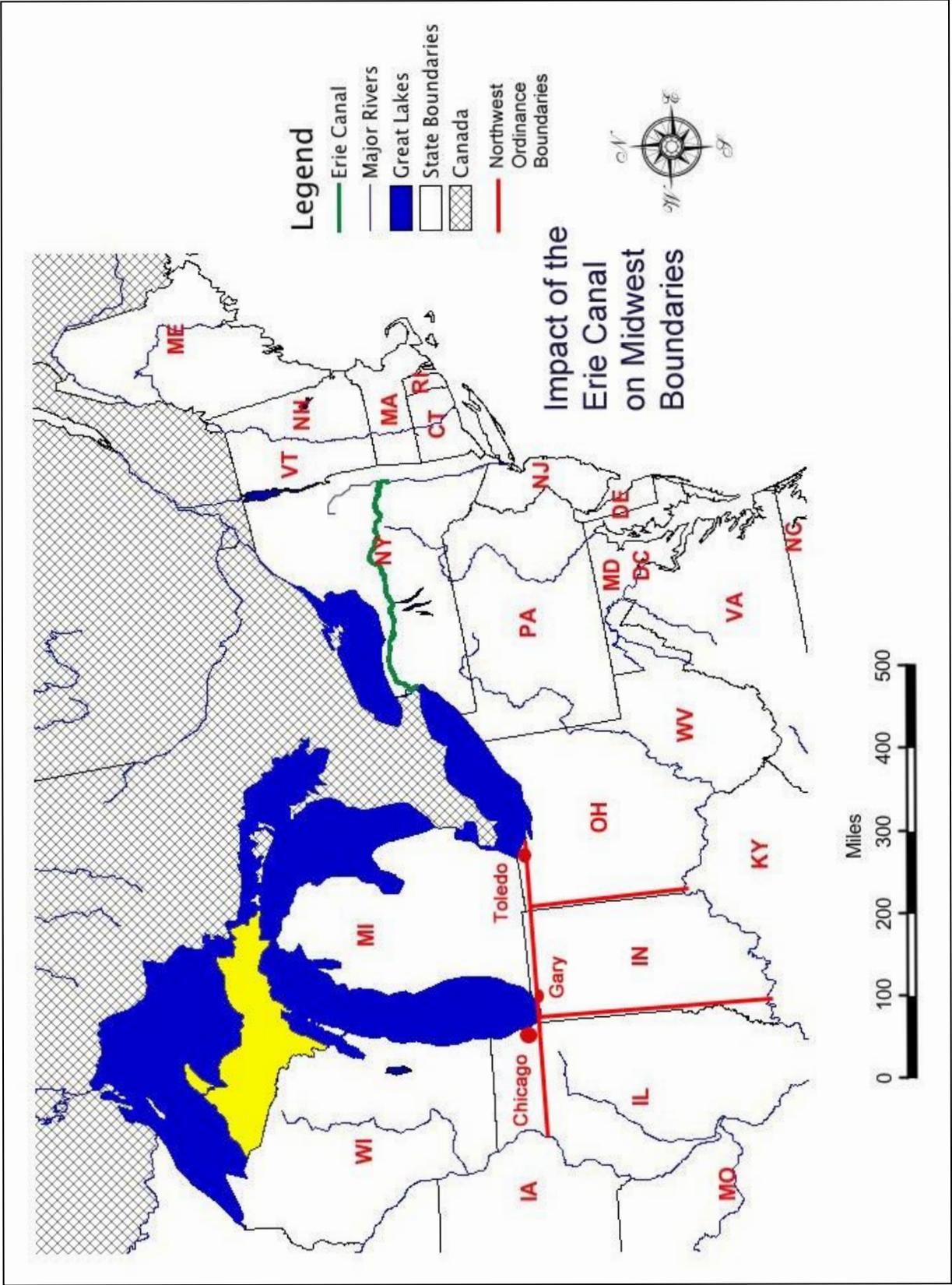
This is how Congress wanted new states organized, but their borders ended up slightly different. The states of Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan all wanted harbors on the Great Lakes. Why would they care about that?

To accomplish this, _____ had to give up some territory to Ohio. The Upper Peninsula (yellow) was given to them as compensation. Finally, _____ received land from Wisconsin, so the great city of Chicago is now in this state.

What was the reason for all these boundary changes? Each of these states wanted harbors on the _____. Using steamboats, they could send their products (wheat, lumber, stones) to Buffalo. How could they get them to New York City? _____ This encouraged people to migrate to Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin.



When did the population of Michigan begin to grow fast? _____ This was when the Erie Canal was at its peak. So, you can see the *aura** of the Erie Canal extended hundreds of miles beyond the borders of New York.



- Legend**
- Erie Canal
 - Major Rivers
 - Great Lakes
 - State Boundaries
 - Canada
 - Northwest Ordinance Boundaries

Impact of the Erie Canal on Midwest Boundaries

