

Let It Snow!

A Lesson for the Atlas of New York: Legacies of the Erie Canal

Snowfall is very common in most of New York because it is a mid-latitude state, but do all places in the state have about the same amount of snowfall? You can find this answer by looking over the map on page 2 of the *Atlas of New York: Legacies of the Erie Canal*.

1. What is the title of the map on the bottom of the page?

2. What does the legend of this map tell us? The darker the color,

3. The snowfall is measured in _____. (It's a unit on a ruler!)
The least snowy places are around _____ and they
only get _____ per year.

4. The snowiest places get over _____ per year. They are found in
two locations. Can you describe the locations of each using words like
"west of" or "to the south of?"

5. How was this map drawn? You can show one of the steps in making a map like this (an *isoline map*.) On the next page of this lesson is a snowfall map that has circles with numbers inside them. The numbers tell you the amount of annual average snowfall (how much snow you would *expect* there every year). At the bottom of the map is a legend. There are four categories of snowfall that you need to color code. Make them **red**, **orange**, **green**, and **blue** in that order. Now color in all the circles on the map, using only the four colors in the legend.

6. Draw a loop around all the circles you colored in blue. How many “blue” (very snowy) clusters are there? ____ How does this compare to the map on page 9 of the Atlas? _____

7. These very snowy areas are often referred to as *lake-effect snow belts*. The winds in this part of the world blow mostly from west to east. Draw a BIG arrow going over both Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. What do you think this has to do with the lake-effect snow belts in New York State?

8. There is an elevation map on page 4 of the Atlas. Would you say places of heavy snow are at low elevation or high elevation? Why?

EXTRA ACTIVITY!

Your teacher has a “Clickable PDF” file called NYClickable_2016. Open it. Choose the following layers only: *State Outline, Scale & North, Location Grid, Rivers, Lakes, Great Lakes waves, Great Lakes Blue*. Add the layer titled “>8ft of snow.”

There are three “snow belt” regions. Describe their locations: _____

Add the layer called “*Detailed Elevation*.” Write a sentence here about the location of snow belts. Include words like “elevation” and “Great Lakes.”

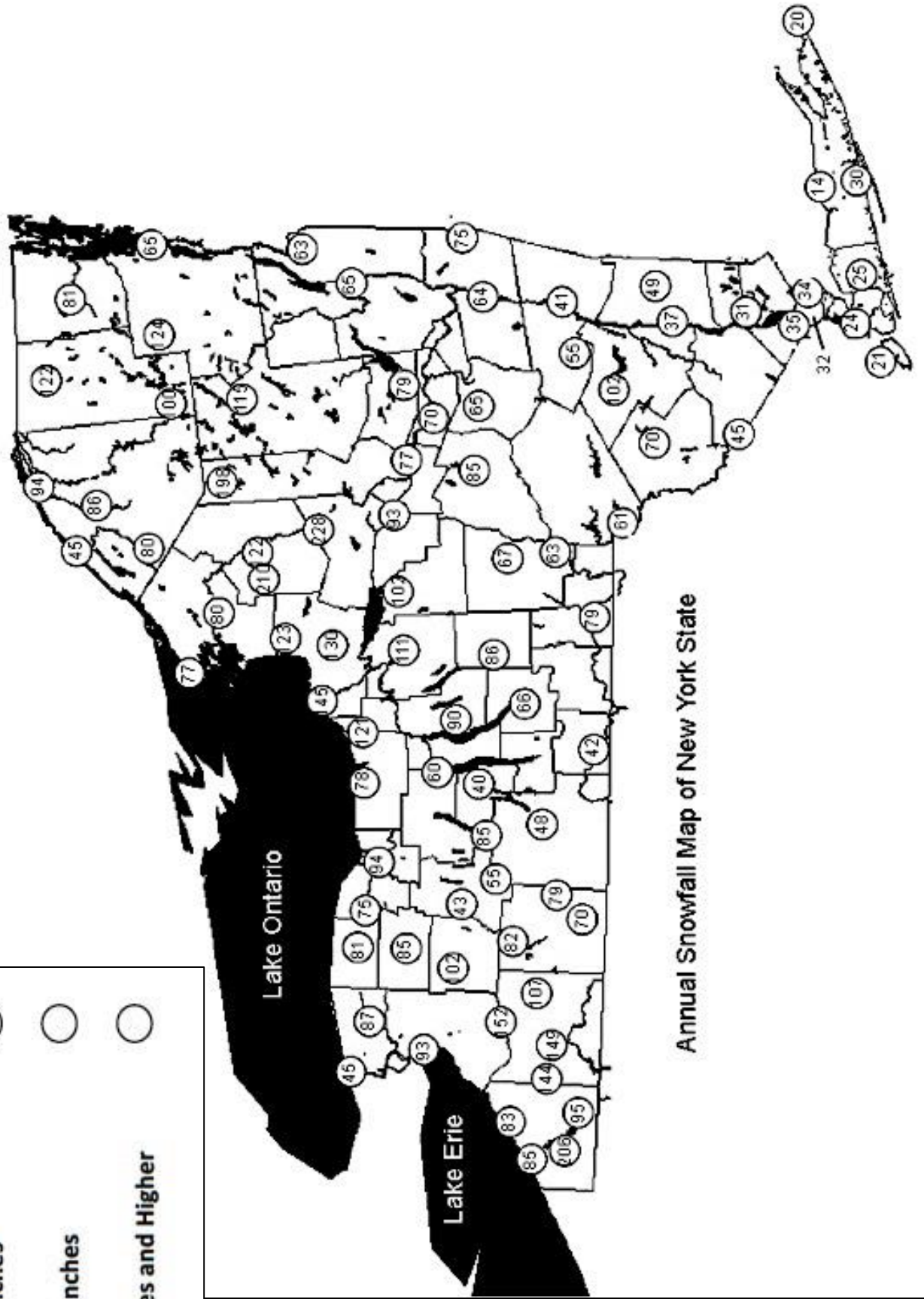
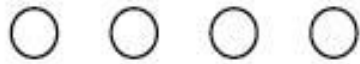
LEGEND:

0 – 50 inches

51 – 90 inches

91 - 130 inches

131 inches and Higher



Annual Snowfall Map of New York State