

Water, Water, Everywhere

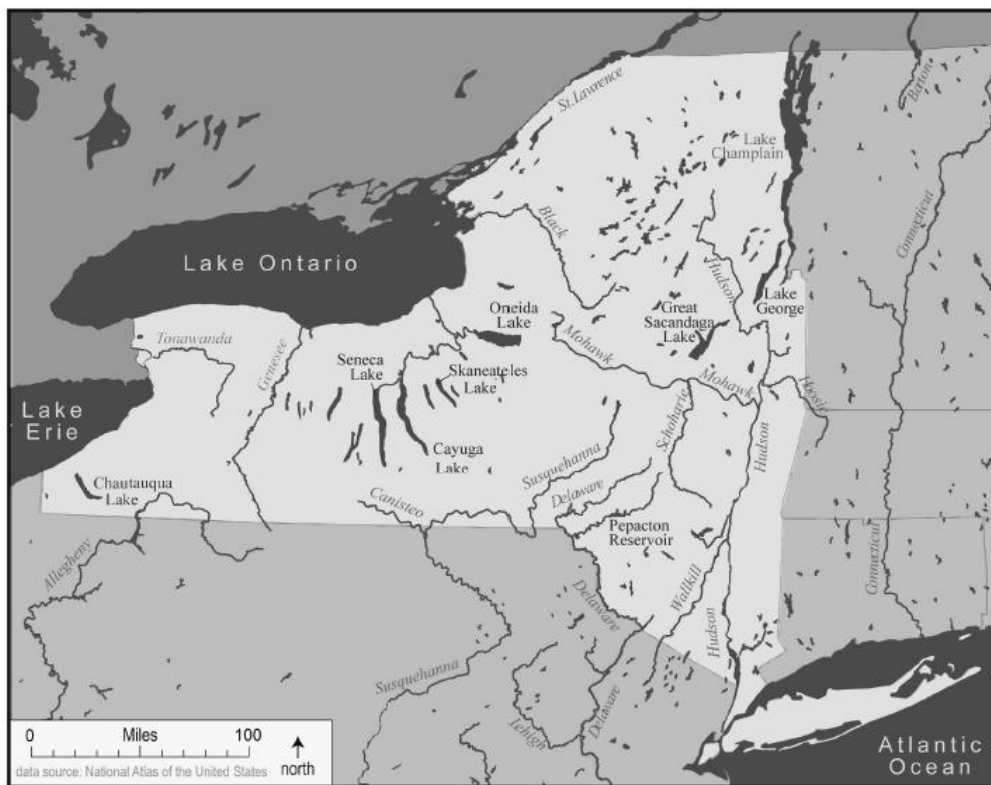
Lesson for the *Atlas of New York: Legacies of the Erie Canal*

Because of our fairly wet climate and the landscape left us from the Ice Age, New York has many rivers and streams. They are connected together to form *watersheds*. (see page 9).

1. Find **three** watersheds on this map. Name them after the main river. List them here:

Black River, _____
_____, _____

2. Rivers always flow from **high** to **low** elevation. There is an elevation map on page 4. What do the colors on this map tell you? Green is _____ elevation; orange is _____ elevation; brown is _____ elevation.



3. The map above is the same as the one on Atlas New York page 8. Find the **Genesee River**. Draw a triangle (\triangle) at the source of this river. It begins in

northern Pennsylvania, and it flows _____ (direction) into _____ (a big body of water). How do we know that? Flip back to page 4. The elevation of northern Pennsylvania is _____, and the elevation of that body of water is _____.

4. Now see if you can determine the direction of flow for the Hudson River. Find its source and mark that with a \triangle . It begins in what part of New York (NW, NE, SW, or SE)? _____ It ends at the _____ Ocean at the City of _____. Therefore, it must flow in a _____ direction.

5. TESTING YOUR GEOGRAPHIC KNOWLEDGE!

The **Niagara River** connects two Great Lakes, Ontario and Erie. Which way does it flow? Does it flow *south* from Lake Ontario to Lake Erie, or does it flow *north* from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario?

_____ Use the elevation map on page 4 to help you explain your answer. _____

Where does the water from Lake Ontario go? _____ River and the _____ Ocean. Draw an arrow along this river to show its path toward the sea.

6. There is a second map on page 8, "Average Flow." It shows the major rivers of New York, but it makes some *fat* and others *skinny*. What does the thickness of the river tell you? Near the end of the Hudson River, the line is very thick, so _____.
7. What is the average flow of the Genesee River (estimate it)? _____
8. Tributaries are smaller rivers and streams that flow into larger ones. Do you see any tributaries* for the Genesee River? _____
9. Name the tributaries for the Hudson River: Schoharie Creek, _____, _____, and _____.

10. When a tributary flows into a river it _____ water to that river. So, the Hudson River has a larger average flow than the Genesee River because

EXTRA CREDIT!

On the map of the Finger Lakes Region on the next page, try to trace out the watershed of the Oswego River (which includes most of the Finger Lakes). Trace over the Seneca River with a magic marker. Then trace all the streams that flow into the Seneca River and the Oswego River and those that flow into the *larger* Finger Lakes. (Do NOT include the “Little Finger Lakes.”) Finally draw a **dotted line** around this watershed, including those streams that you have traced. The boundary (a divide) has already been started for you. You need to *finish it*.

* Actually, the Genesee River does have many tributaries, but they are mostly small creeks, so they are not shown on this map.

Map of the Finger Lakes Region of New York

Legend

- Rivers and Streams
- Lake Ontario
- Lakes of New York

