How the Erie Canal Helped Rochester Grow
Stories of the Tools, Business, and People on the Erie Canal

A “Complete the Drawing” Coloring Book for the Sam Patch
Genesee Community Charter School
2014–15 Third Grade Class
ROCHESTER’S BOOM!

Did you realize that as you are riding on the Sam Patch, you are actually taking a ride through an important part of Rochester’s history? This coloring book is designed to walk you through some of the stories and tools that were involved in this time period and their effects on Rochester, NY. The Erie Canal, which connects Buffalo to New York City and travels through the Rochester area, was used to ship goods all over the world. The farms that produced wheat would sell their product to the mills, which would produce flour. The Erie Canal made shipping this flour more efficient, which means easier and cheaper than by wagon. For example, to ship flour by wagon it cost around $100 a ton. The Erie Canal reduced costs to $10 a ton. This new way to travel saved money and created an opportunity for new people to travel west and settle in this area. This caused more people, jobs, and communities in this area. It created a ‘Boom!’ in population. This is why Rochester, NY is known as one of the nation’s first boomtowns. Also, the ways engineers and other builders of the Erie Canal solved problems created new tools and inventions, such as locks and the stump puller. Many of these tools and inventions are highlighted in our book.

How to use this book

Use this book as a guide to your journey on the Sam Patch. Each page has a ‘story-like’ description of a tool and/or object you may see on your journey. For each page, there is a special tool that you can read about. Also, the author of each page picks a couple of things for you to add to the picture. Our writings are supposed to give you some mental images while you read. Draw these mental images into the pages before you color. So, for each page add some pictures and color while you enjoy your time on the Sam Patch! Here’s our target.

✧ I CAN USE LANGUAGE TO CREATE AN IMAGE IN A READER’S MIND.
It was spring of 1826. A cool breeze made the wheat in the field sway. The sun sparkled on the wheat. The farmer, his son, and some workers stood in the field to check on the wheat. The dirt was cold. The wheat was almost ready to harvest. Everyone began to harvest the wheat as the clouds became dark. It began sprinkling and then pouring. The workers and farmer became wet from the rain. But the work needed to get done. The miller was waiting for wheat seeds to grind them into flour.

About the Author:

Lydia enjoys playing the piano and writing about scary stuff. Her favorite part about writing this book is drawing the picture of the wheat.