Writing Assignment:

* Have students undergo a virtual journey on the Erie Canal by watching the "Time Lapse Through the Erie Canal" below and stopping the video at each lock, barge, bridge, etc. to be the tour guide and ask the students what each represents and what they do. To really get the students engaged, align the desk into two columns in front of the SMART board or projector, or have student sit on the floor in two rows and "row" the boat with rows that they construct out of classroom supplies. Have students stop along the way for snack breaks, water breaks, and bathroom breaks. After viewing the video, have students engage in writing journal entries that describe what they saw, heard, smelled, and felt along the trip. For example, was it tedious, boring, engaging, strenuous, interesting, etc. In these journals, students will be required to define a minimum of four vocabulary words (such as lock, barge, bridge, canal, etc.). This activity could even be broken into several days, where student are asked to complete several different journals that also include what they expect to happen the next day (what they expect to see, how they anticipate to feel, what could be improved upon, etc.).

How the Erie Canal Contributed to the Growth of the United States:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LePSecHFkIQ>

Time Lapse through the Erie Canal:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRmbjfPaSXU>

Erie Canal Lock Time Lapse:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7_Hr3iCPls>