

Map of the Niagara River and the Welland Canal, c. 1900

Lesson type: Worksheet

Historical Context

The Niagara River was formed some 12,000 years ago from water melting off glaciers. The river flows thirty-four miles from Lake Erie into Lake Ontario. Along those thirty-four miles, the river makes a sudden large drop in elevation, called Niagara Falls. Downriver from the falls, the river makes a 90° turn that is known as the Whirlpool.

Essential Question

How does geography impact culture and economic systems?

Check for Understanding

Summarize the information contained in the map and explain the influence of this water source on New York's culture and economy.



Map of the Niagara River and Welland Canal, New York State Archives, NYSA_A3045-78_D47_Ni

Document Description

A map of the Niagara River and Welland Canal, circa 1900.

Questions

1. Describe the shape of the Niagara River.

Resources

1. Whitcraft, Melissa. *The Niagara River*. New York: Franklin Watts, 2001. ISBN: 0531119033