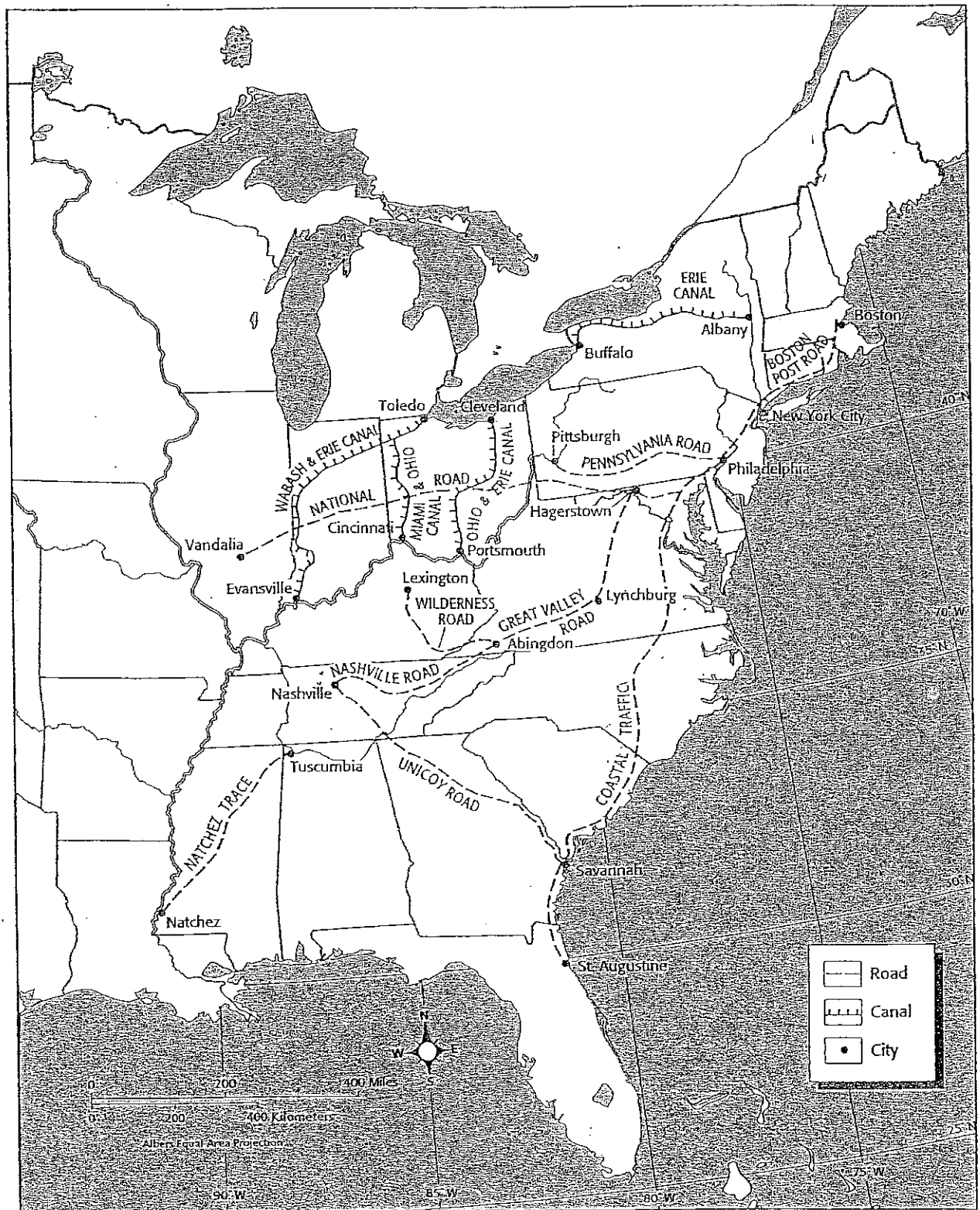


The American System: Early Roads and Canals



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In the early years of the nation, the easiest transportation often was by water. However, rivers did not always flow where people wanted to go, so they were supplemented by canals and then by roads. These routes presented problems of their own. Canals froze over in the winter and could not be built everywhere. Roads were often slow, rough, muddy or dusty depending on the weather. The amount of freight that could be moved by road remained small. Regardless of their drawbacks, these transportation routes were the primary means of American movement in the early to middle 1800's. This map shows some of the principal roads and canals of that time.

Use the map on page 303 of your textbook, your desk atlas, and the maps in the front of the room to complete this map according to the following directions. Do only what it listed in the directions.

1. Locate, outline and label Lake Erie, Lake Michigan, and Lake Ontario. _____/3
2. Locate, trace and label the Hudson, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers. _____/3
3. Trace the following roads; use red pencil or marker.

National Road	Pennsylvania Road
Natchez Trace	Wilderness Road
Nashville Road	Coastal Traffic/Boston Post Road

_____/6
4. Trace the following canals; use brown pencil or marker.

Erie Canal	Ohio and Erie Canal
Miami and Ohio Canal	Wabash and Erie Canal

_____/4

After labeling your map, use it and your other references to answer the following questions. (2 pts. each)

5. What two cities are the starting and ending points of the National Road?
6. What two bodies of water does the Erie Canal join?
7. What two cities did the Miami and Ohio Canal connect?
8. What two bodies of water does the Wabash and Erie Canal connect?
9. What two cities are the starting and ending points of the Coastal Traffic/Boston Post Road?
10. How might a merchant in New York City transport goods to Cincinnati using only canals and bodies of water shown the map?

11. How might a farmer in Toledo transport grain to New Orleans using the canals and bodies of water shown on the map?

Name _____

Score _____/30