



Young Audiences Western New York

Journeys & Journals: Traveling on the Erie Canal

Grade Level: 4th, 5th

Residency length: 2 performances,
4-9 workshops

Art Forms: Theatre, Music, Literary, and Ensemble

This residency invites students to take a personal journey down the Erie Canal by speaking through the voices of the era. A Young Audiences artist explores artifacts from the Erie Canal era in the *Traveling Museum Workshop*.

In *Journeys and Journals*, a poet/writer experienced in teaching creative writing encourages students to express themselves through literary exercises using vintage maps, photographs, drawings, and imaginative prompts. These workshops can be augmented with other Erie Canal-themed programs to provide students with an interdisciplinary Erie Canal Residency that addresses multiple learning styles and truly brings the Canal age to life.

Performances by Gretchen Murray Sepik as the surly packet-boat cook *Erie Canal Sal* and the musical group The String-men's *Erie Canal Show*, give students a taste of the unique characters and songs from the period. The program is designed for grades 4 and 7 Social Studies curriculum.



Residency Goals and 21st Century Skills Addressed:

Some Examples could be:

- Critical Thinking and Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Collaboration
- Self Direction
- Invention

New York State Educational Standards:

- *Art Standard 1: Creating, Performing, and Participating in the Arts*
- *Art Standard 2: Knowing and Using Arts Materials and Resources*
- *Art Standard 3: Responding to and Analyzing Works of Art*
- *Art Standard 4: Understanding the Cultural Dimensions and Contributions of the Arts*

Common Core Learning English Language Arts Standards:

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.2.7** Participate in shared research and writing projects
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.2.8** Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3** Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

Social Studies

The students loved seeing Surly Sal this year. Humor is a great way to get my fourth graders to understand the era and get interested in learning!

-- 4th Grade Teacher, BPS 67 Discovery School