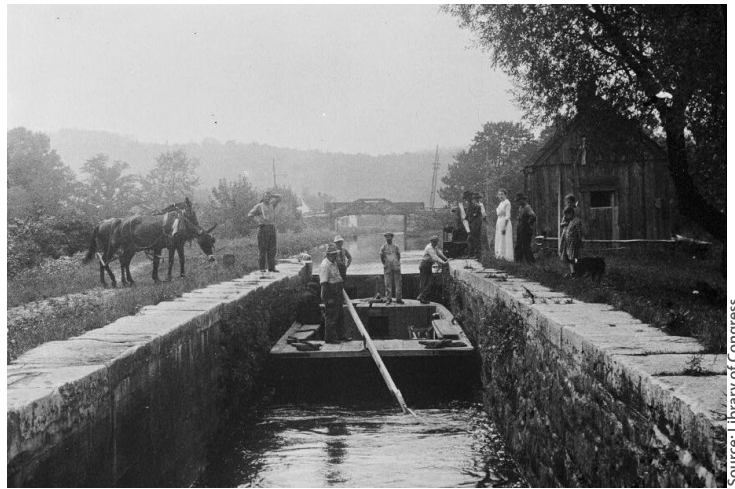# Sample Lesson #3

A New Era Begins

Ohio's canals made shipping less costly and faster than ever before. Merchants began to ship their goods on canals, and Ohio farmers did well. The canals provided jobs for boatmen, **hoggees** (mule drivers), and toll collectors. Along the route, hotels offered places to eat and sleep. Mills and cities sprang up near the canals. More and more settlers came to Ohio. As a result, Ohio became the third most-populated state in the country.

Canal boat with mule team for towing

Source: Library of Congress

The **boom era**[1] of Ohio canals helped the state grow, but it only lasted about 50 years. In 1913, heavy rains and snowmelt caused a great deal of flooding, and this damaged the canals. The floods ended the movement of people and goods on Ohio's canals.

By this time, however, trains were becoming the new way to travel. New groups of immigrants were laying railroad tracks across the country. Trains could travel even faster than canal boats and could carry more **tonnage**[2]. Trains could travel over hills. They could go directly through mountains by way of tunnels.

During the 1840s and 1850s, railroads appeared in Ohio. Trains began to transport Ohio's natural resources and raw materials to other parts of the country. This helped Ohio take part in America's **Industrial Revolution**[3]. Factories in cities along the railroad provided jobs. Many immigrants came to Ohio. A new era had begun.

1. In the passage, underline the sentences that tell why trains were better than canal boats for shipping goods.

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1   **boom era**: a time of large growth and production
2   **tonnage**: the weight of cargo in tons
3   **Industrial Revolution**: time when people built machines and large factories; industries grew

2. The title of the lesson is, "A New Era Begins." What is the new era?

    A) time of the train

    B) the beginning of the 1800s

    C) the term of a new president

    D) all of these

3. Which shows how transportation advanced in Ohio during the 1800s?

    A) covered wagon > freight train > canal boats

    B) canal boats > covered wagon > freight train

    C) covered wagon > canal boats > freight train

    D) none of these

4. Study the list of names below. What do they all have in common?

John Rankin	John Parker	Sojourner Truth
Harriet Beecher Stowe	Levi Coffin	John Brown

    A) They were elected to the Ohio General Assembly during the 1800s.

    B) They were abolitionists who were born in or lived in Ohio.

    C) They were military leaders during the American Civil War.

    D) They were wealthy landowners who created jobs in Ohio.

5. Match each cause and effect. Write the letter of the item in the correct place.

    A) Ohio became the third most-populated state in the union.

    B) It became easier to transport Ohio's natural resources and raw materials.

    C) In 1913, heavy rains and snow melt caused a great deal of flooding.

Cause	Effect
Mills and cities sprang up near the canals; more settlers came to Ohio.	
	Locks and canal banks were damaged or destroyed.
During the 1840s and 1850s railroads appeared in Ohio.	