

Document Packet
Telling the Story of the I&M Canal

Who was the creator of this map? What is his/her nationality?

When was it made? Why was it made?

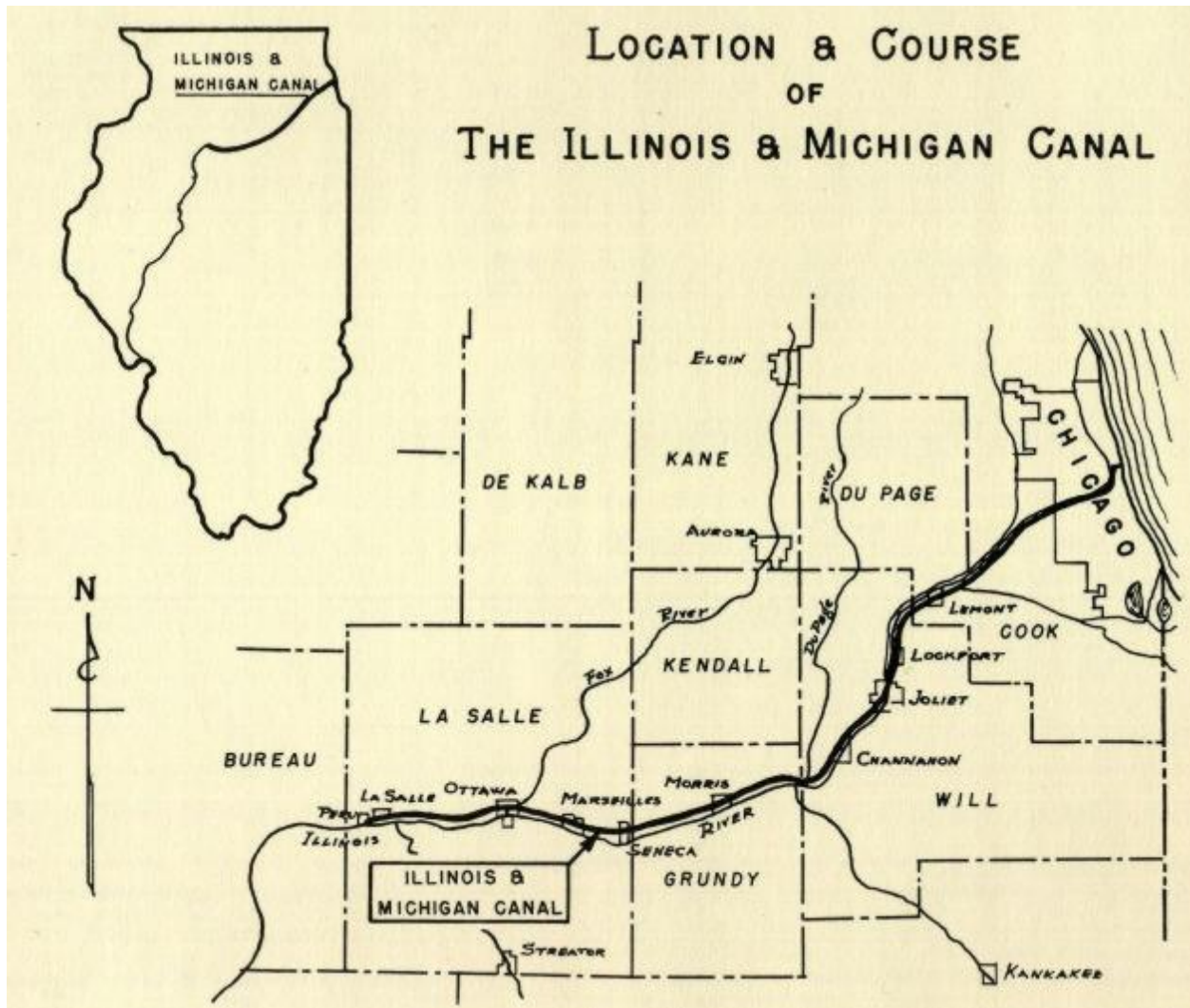
What factors contribute to its accuracy/inaccuracy?

How are the rivers in this map the same or different than the rivers that you know?

Where do the rivers connect? Where do they not connect? Look near Lake Michigan and Chicago.

Who do you think lived in Illinois in 1718 based on this map? Look at the settlements in the middle of the map.

This is a sketch of the route of the completed I&M Canal courtesy of the Illinois State Archives. It is not known exactly when the sketch was made but it can reasonably be assumed that it was drawn after the completion of the canal because Kendall and Grundy counties were not founded until the canal project was well underway. Source: Illinois State Archives, *Illinois and Michigan Canal Exhibit A*.



Who could be the author of this map?

What information does this map give the reader?

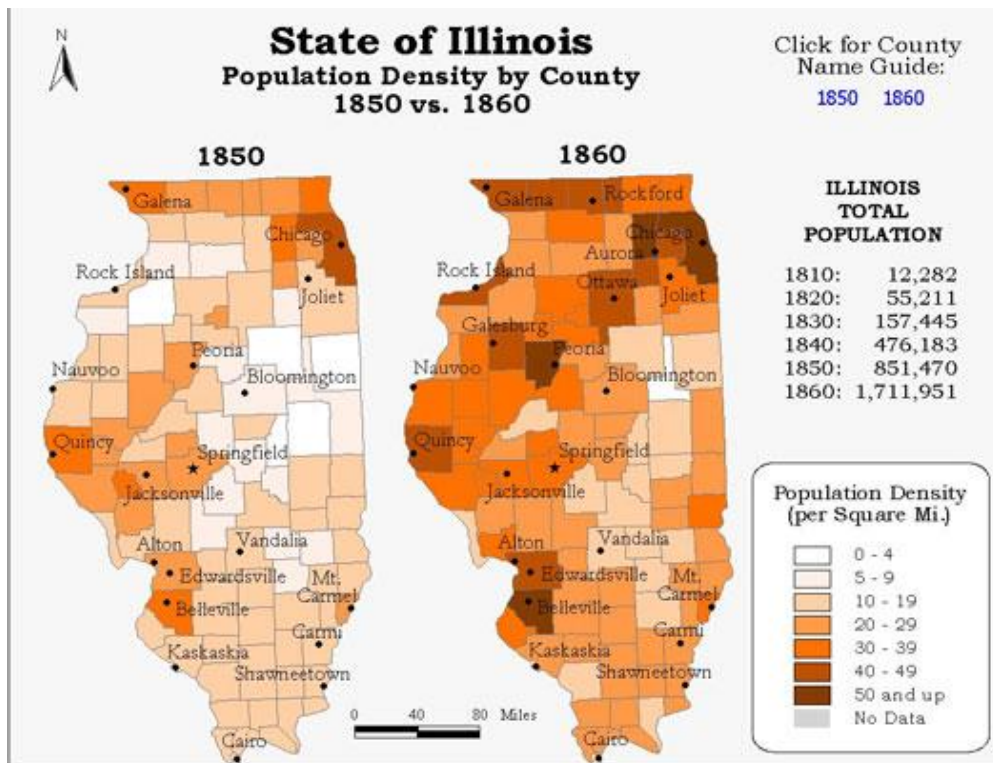
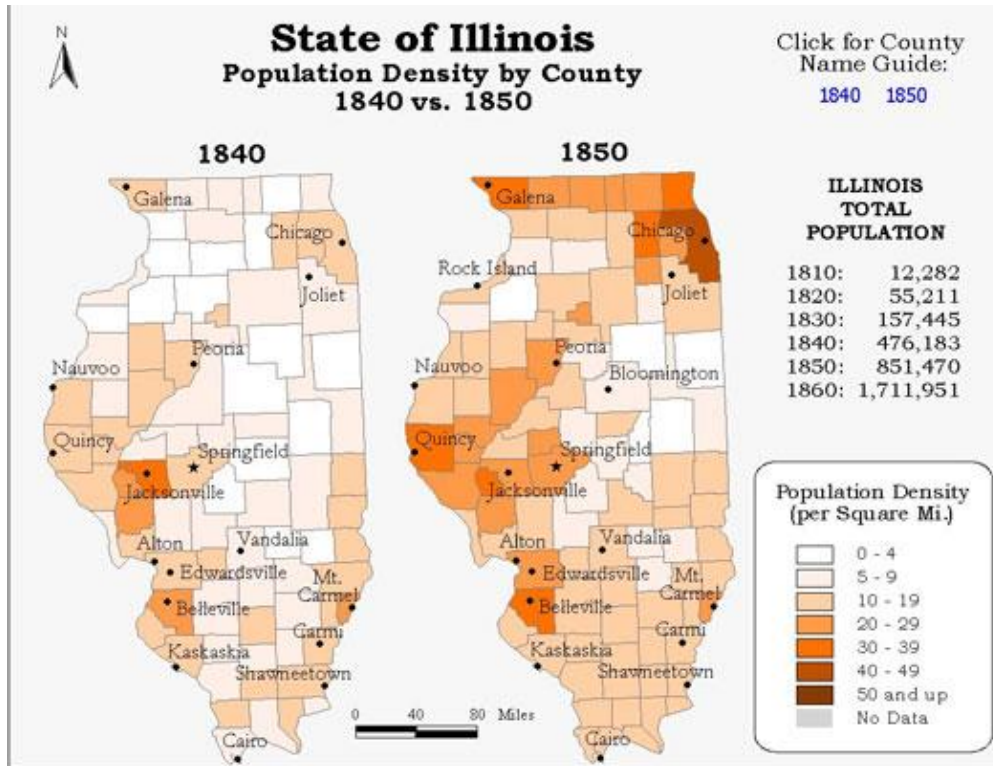
What is the main difference about waterways between the map from 1718 and this map? *Hint* what rivers and lakes connect now that did not connect in the first map?

How are the names of the places in this map different than those in the previous map?

What does that say about the people who live in Illinois when this map was created compared to 1718? How has the culture of the region changed?

How could this map be more helpful to the reader?

These graphics detail a change in population density by county in 19th century Illinois. Source: Northern Illinois University, *Lincoln Home Mobile Tour*.



This table, provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census shows the population increase in the city of Chicago from 1833 to 1900. Source: Bureau of the Census, *US Census of Population 1950*

Population of Chicago	
Year	Number of People
1833	350
1840	4,470
1850	29,963
1860	112,172
1870	298,977
1880	503,185
1890	1,099,850
1900	1,698,575

Can the population density maps be useful in understanding the impact of the I&M Canal even if they do not show the canal route? If so, what do they show?

In what ten years did the population of Illinois grow the most? Second most?

What counties saw major growth in the 20 years that are shown in the graph?

What could be the causes of this population growth?

This information comes from the Federal Trade Commission's Report on the grain trade in 1920. The first table shows the amount of various goods that traveled through the canal in its first six years of operation. The second table shows the bushels of grain which were received in three cities during 1858. Source: United States Federal Trade Commission, *Report of the Federal Trade Commission on the Grain Trade 1920*

Year	Wheat (Bushels)	Corn (Bushels)	Sugar (Ibs)	Lumber (Feet)
1848	454,111	516,230	3,219,122	15,423,357
1849	579,598	754,288	4,218,208	20,882,000
1850	417,036	317,674	5,680,324	38,687,508
1851	78,062	2,878,550	4,501,471	56,845,027
1852	117,441	1,810,880	4,822,297	52,510,053
1853	340,277	2,490,675	7,332,032	58,500,438

	Cincinnati	St. Louis	Chicago
Grains			
Flour (Bushels)	3,166,590	1,861,196	2,610,683
Wheat (Bushels)	1,211,543	3,835,750	9,639,614
Corn (Bushels)	1,000,236	900,000	8,252,641
Oats (Bushels)	588,930	1,690,652	2,313,597
Rye (Bushels)	64,338	46,198	71,012
Barley (Bushels)	400,967	406,000	413,812
Total (Bushels)	6,432,644	8,730,715	23,301,361

What city processed the most grain in 1858?

Looking at the first table, did the I&M Canal help move more or less goods as time went on?

How did the existence of the I&M Canal affect the figures in the second table?

What can these tables tell us about settlement along the I&M Canal?

What can these tables tell us about the development of Chicago?

This a map of North American dialects taken from WBEZ podcast *Curious City*. A dialect is a particular form of a language that is peculiar to a specific region or social group. The next image is a map of canals built in the American Northeast during the 19th century. Source: WBEZ *Curious City*, *Chuh Kaw Go, What Do You Really Sound Like?*



Source: Social Studies for Kids, *Canals in American History*



What dialect is spoken where the I&M Canal was built?

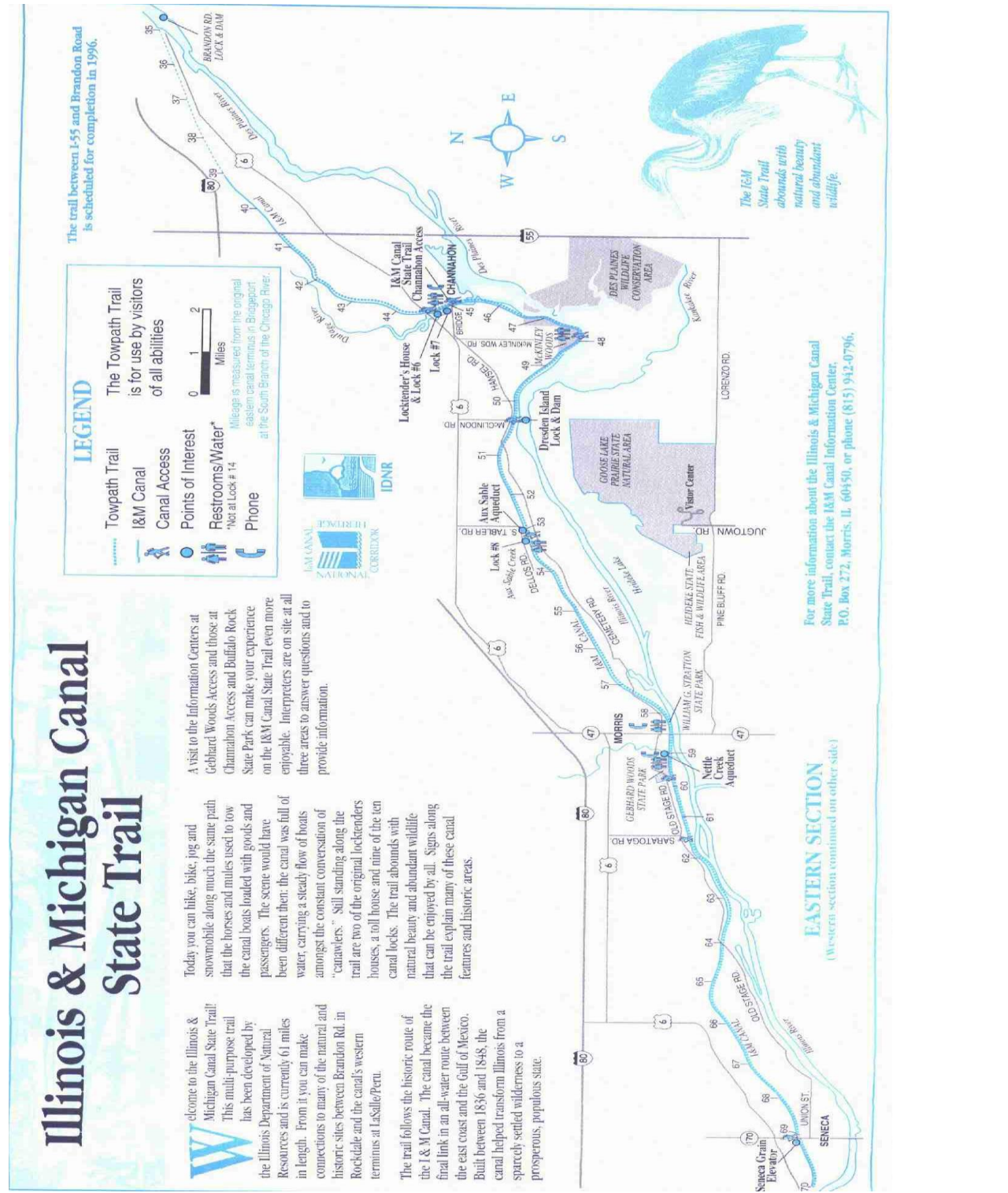
Where else does that dialect appear?

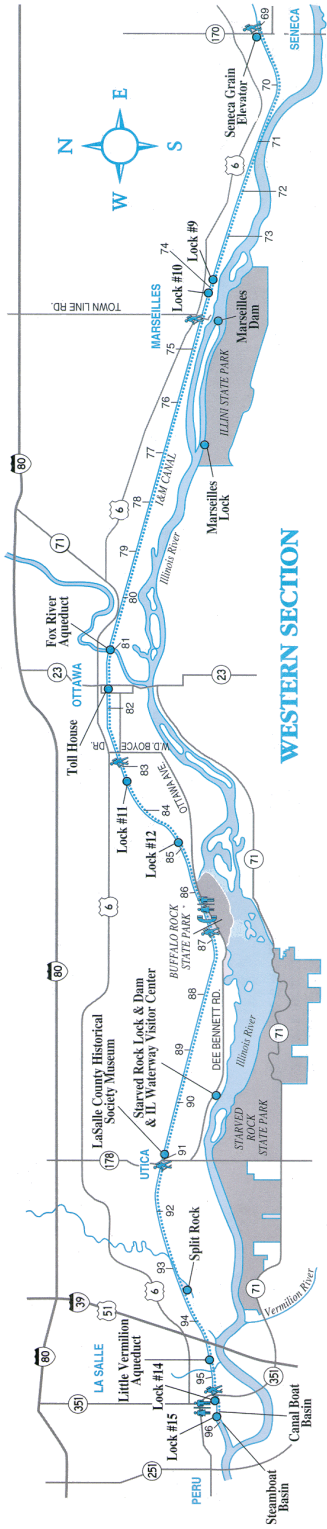
What are some potential reasons why that dialect appears in those regions?

Do these two maps relate to each other at all? If so then how?

Can you draw any conclusions about the people who built the I&M Canal based on these images?

The following two images were taken from a guide to the hiking trail along the I&M Canal.
 Source: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, *Illinois and Michigan Canal Trail*





Is the canal still in operation today?

What is the purpose of this map?

How has the purpose of the canal changed since it was built? How is it the same?

Is the canal still useful to the surrounding community?

All Documents

Do these documents tell a story? If so what is that story?

Do they contradict each other or not?

Which document is most important in understanding how the canal affected Illinois?

What is something that you learned from reading these documents that you did not previously know?