

Downtown Rochester Map Quest

INSTRUCTIONS

Length: 45 minutes

Audience: This activity can be modified for students in grades 4-8 (ages 9-13).

Objective: Students will read a map to answer questions and learn about the physical layout of downtown Rochester in the year 1900.

Set up (5-10 minutes): Divide the class into small groups of two to four students each. Assign each group to a computer/tablet station with Internet access. Have the students use the following URL to access Plate 1 of the 1900 Plat Map of downtown Rochester, showing the Main Street area from Washington Street to Clinton Avenue, and from Andrews Street to the Erie Canal and Aqueduct: <http://photo.libraryweb.org/rochimag/rpm/rpm00164.htm>. Explain that this is a historical map that shows what downtown Rochester looked like in the year 1900.

Implementation (20-25 minutes): Give each group time to explore the 1900 map. Distribute the Downtown Rochester Map Quest Worksheet to guide their exploration. Ask students to work together using the 1900 map to answer the six questions on the worksheet.

Debrief (10 minutes): After students have examined the map and completed their worksheets, review the questions and correct answers with the class. Based on their knowledge of the area today, help students to note physical changes in downtown Rochester between 1900 and the present day. A current Google Maps view of this area will help them visualize these differences.

Answer Key:

1. Where was City Hall located?

Answer: On the corner of S. Fitzhugh St. and the Erie Canal

2. Today, Rochester's City Hall is on the corner of N. Fitzhugh and Church streets in what was once the Federal Building. What used to be in this building?

Answer: The U.S. Post Office

3. Between what two streets was the city's first (and at the time only) high school located?

Answer: Montgomery and S. Fitzhugh

4. What structure carried the Erie Canal over the Genesee River?

Answer: Aqueduct

5. What was located on the Main Street Bridge?

Answer: Buildings (names of specific buildings mentioned on the map would also be acceptable: Democrat & Chronicle Building, Ocumpaugh Building, The Post Express Occupants)

6. What ran along what is now Broad Street?

Answer: Erie Canal