

# REVOLUTION IN TRANSPORTATION

<b>Essential Question:</b>	How did the nation's economy help shape its politics?
<b>Students will Know :</b>	How was the American economy transformed during the Industrial Revolution and how did it affect society?

## Key Terms/Concepts

- **Cause** - a person or thing that makes something happen
- **Effect** - a change which is a result or consequence of an action or other cause.
- **Transform** - make a thorough or dramatic change in the form, appearance, or character.
- **Economy** - the wealth and resources of a country or region, especially in terms of the production and consumption of goods and services.
- **Revolution** - a dramatic and wide-reaching change in the way something works or is organized or in people's ideas about it

## Historical Context

During this time in American history a great number of changes are about to take place. A revolution in transportation and industry led to dramatic social and economic changes. Early industrialization also led to the growth of Northern towns and cities.

## Questions for Thought

#1 - How does faster travel change the way people live?

#2 How does faster travel change the way people view the world?

**Activity #1**  
**Changes in Transportation**

**Directions:** When we talk about a situation that makes another situation happen, we talk about cause and effect. In groups discuss how the change in transportation (**Cause**) might have an **effect** on politics, humans, and economies. Try to come up with as many ideas as you can.

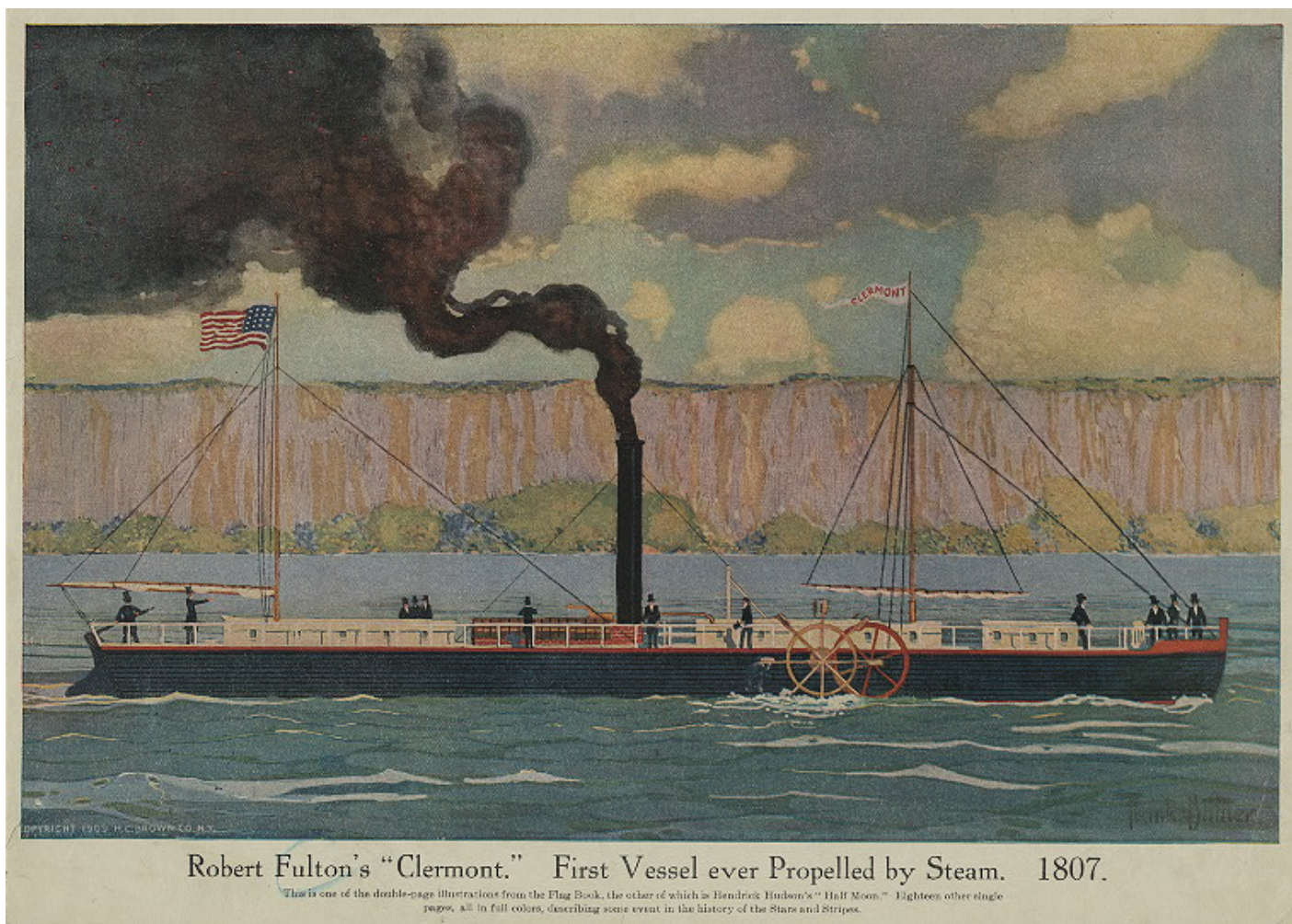
**Cause**

**Effects**

Political:

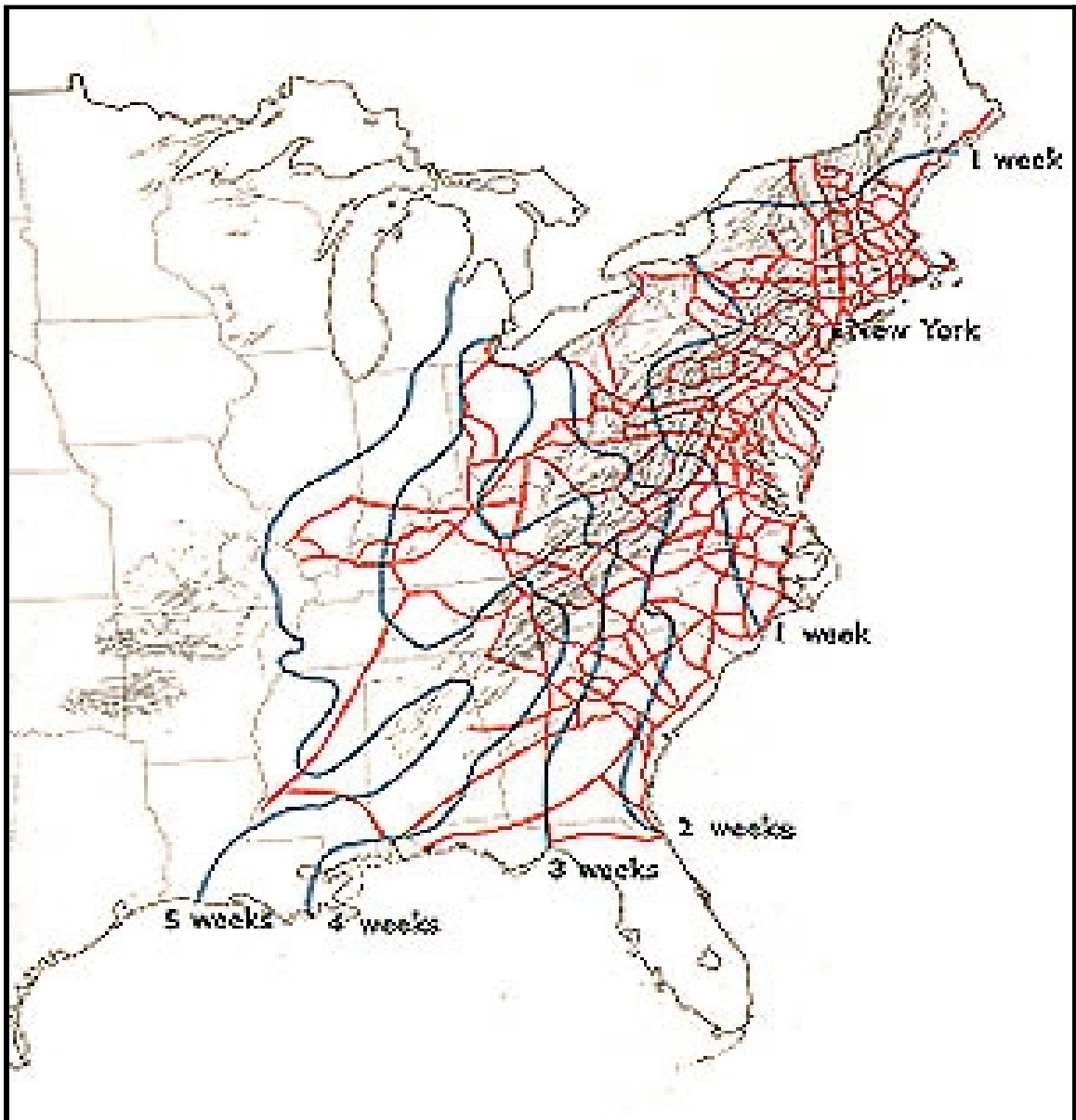
Human:

Economic:



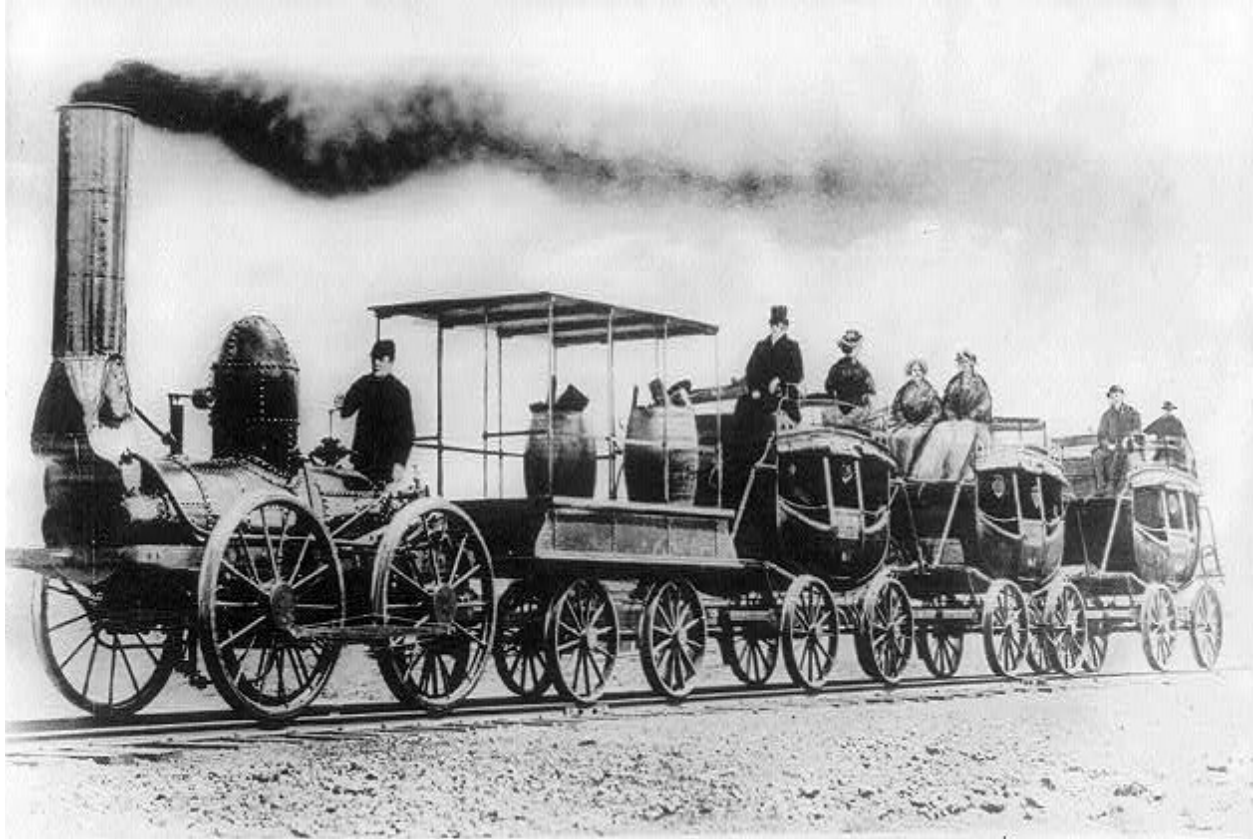
## Steamboats

Rivers offered faster, cheaper, and more efficient ways to move goods than did roads, which were often little more than wide paths. A barge could hold many wagon loads of grain or coal. Loaded barges could usually only travel downstream. Moving against the current with heavy cargoes proved difficult. Steamboats made river travel more reliable and upstream travel easier. This pushed the government to create thousands of miles of river canals. It also helped increase trade and stimulated the economic growth of the country.



## Roads

In the early 1800's Congress authorized the construction of The National Road. This is the only Federally funded road. Instead states, localities, and private businesses constructed roads. New York alone had some 4,000 miles of toll roads by 1821.



## Railroads

Trains became a new means of transportation in the early 1800's. Trains traveled faster than stagecoaches or wagons and could go anywhere the track was laid. More than any other form of transportation, trains helped settle the West and stimulate trade.

Between 1830-1861 the nation laid more than 30,000 miles of railroad track, boosting demand for coal. Coal mining shot up to nearly 20 million tons.