

Natural Resources



View from the bus of the Genesee River at Letchworth State Park.

Western New York is the water itself. Some people think you can only use water for drinking, but it can be used for a lot of things. Early settlers in Rochester used the Genesee River to catch fish, for transportation, and to water their crops. They even used it to provide power for mills [see pg 60.] The water turns the great millstone to grind wheat into flour.

Trees are another important natural resource. People used trees for building houses, for fuel to cook

Without the many things that the Earth provides, people wouldn't be here today. The resources that come from nature are called "natural resources." Some are never used up, like water. Those are called "renewable resources." Others, like oil, cannot be replaced easily. Those are called "nonrenewable resources." We must guard our natural resources or else we will lose them.

One of the most important natural resource of



My name is Alexandria. I have one sister, her name is Meshco. I don't have a pet. My hobby is playing the guitar. I would like to study more about the Genesee River. I would like to be in the WNBA playing basketball. My favorite part of this expedition was when we got to go to Pennsylvania. The best part was taking notes. The hard part was putting it in a draft.

food and for heat during the winter. The Pioneers tapped Maple trees to sweeten their food.

The water was cleaner when the settlers came to the area than it is today. Why was the water cleaner? Because there wasn't any pollution. Today there are factories that dump waste into rivers. People don't care about how clean the water is. It's our responsibility to take care of and guard our natural resources. The Genesee River has been here for 10,000 years even before people were on Earth. Its source begins at Gold, Pennsylvania. Its mouth is at Lake Ontario.



This is a picture that shows natural resources: like the water, trees, plants. The water is clearer at the beginning than down by Rochester at its mouth.

Travel To Rochester



My name is Sydney. My family includes a dad, a mom and a sister. I have no pets, but I used to have two turtles (speedy and slowy). My hobbies include soccer, reading, four square and swimming. When I grow up I want to be a soccer player. I live in Rochester, NY. I take Kung Fu (a martial art) and I go to girl scouts. My favorite part of this expedition was going to Gold, PA.

Why did people pack-up everything and move to Rochester? I mean who would want to pack-up everything and possibly sell all of your furniture and risk your life just to move? Well, the pioneers did. Back then almost everybody was a farmer so they needed good soil (Rochester had that). The second reason they moved was the land was available. If the pioneers wanted to go farther west a “land agent” might stop them and convince them to settle here. A land agent is someone who sells land and says “Why keep going when you could settle here?”

Later, job opportunities was another reason why people moved here. There was one job that was popular. It was called “Carpenters and Joiners” (they built houses).

If you were traveling to Rochester you couldn’t just take a car, you would take a wagon. There were quite a lot of types of wagons. Types of wagons are: the light wagon, the Conestoga wagon, and the prairie sheotend. The light wagon was used for travel. It is 8 feet long, 12 feet tall and about 5 feet wide. The Conestoga wagon was used for freight (rarely used for travel.) The Conestoga wagon was German designed. The Germans painted parts different

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS.		
7 Clergymen,	124 Shoemakers,	17 Coachmakers,
25 Physicians,	20 Hatters,	67 Blacksmiths,
28 Lawyers,	79 Coopers,	14 Gunsmiths,
74 Merchants,	28 Clothiers,	10 Chairmakers,
89 Clerks,	20 Millers,	95 Masons,
54 Grocers,	21 Millwrights,	25 Cabinet-mkrs,
33 Butchers,	304 Carpenters & Joiners,	5 Combmakers,
26 Wheelwrights,	23 Tinners,	16 Inn-keepers,
21 Saddlers,	29 Tanners,	16 Goldsmiths,
8 Tallow-chandlers,	14 Bakers,	8 Bookbinders,
	423 Labourers,	31 Printers.

Jobs people did in Rochester according to a Directory in 1812.

colors. The metal was black, the body was light blue, and the wheels were red. The biggest Conestoga wagon could hold 8 tons, the smallest could hold 3 tons. The prairie sheotend was a smaller version of the Conestoga wagon. The prairie sheotend could hold 2 tons.

The basic parts of any wagon are the body, wheels, oil canvas and the tongue. In the winter the pioneers would take off the wheels and put runners on it.

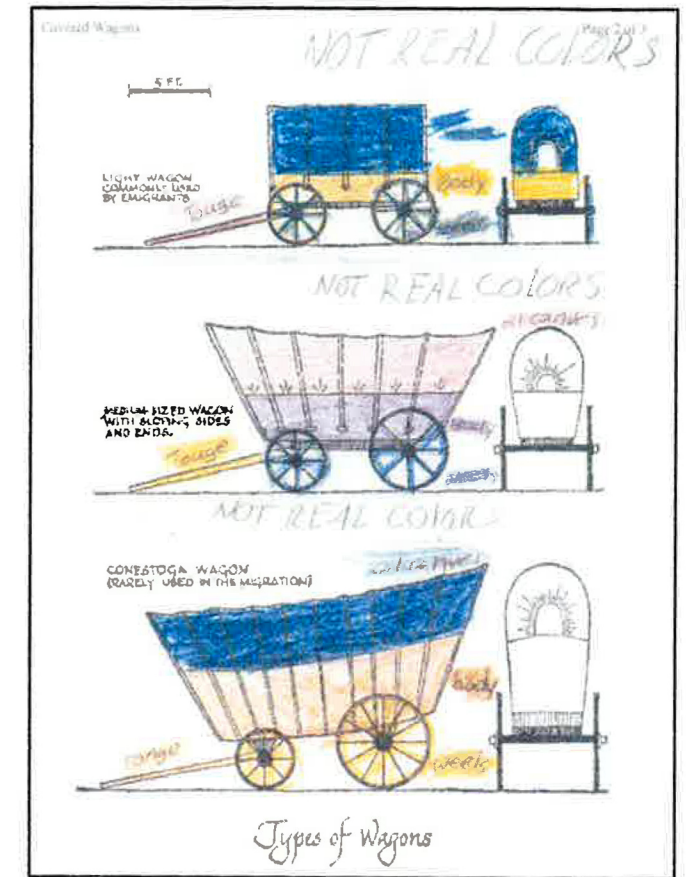
How long did it take to build a wagon? If the blacksmith had all the parts already built (a wagon maker’s job) and he built it all by himself it would take one week.

If you had a wagon what would pull it? Oxen were better especially if it was a long way because oxen are easier to feed. To control oxen, farmers would call out words like “Gee” (left), “Haw” (right), and “whoa” (stop).

Some of the people who traveled here are Enos Stone, Nathaniel Rochester, Hamlet Scranton and Abelard Reynolds.

The places where some people came from were mostly New England. Other people came from England, Ireland, Scotland, Switzerland, Germany, Canada, Norway, Pennsylvania and Connecticut.

One of the sicknesses people caught commonly was Malaria (also known as the Genesee Fever). Malaria was caught from mosquitoes. Another was Cholera (caught by bad water). And Small Pox. Today none of these sicknesses still exist in Rochester.



These are the three wagons I know of, the light wagon (top) was used for traveling to Rochester. The others were used for freight.