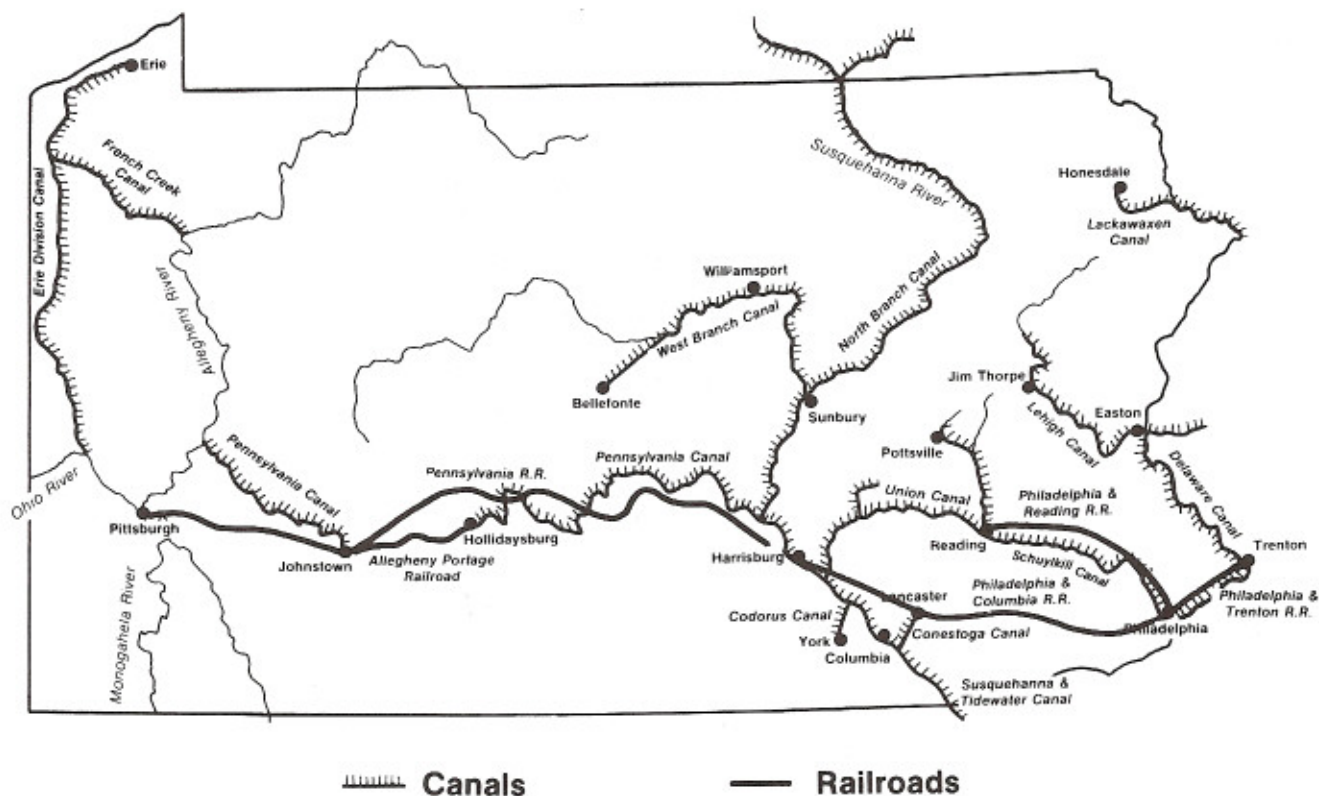


Canals and Railroads

The first canal in Pennsylvania was finished in May 1825. The Schuylkill Canal was 108 miles long and connected the coal fields near Pottsville to Philadelphia. This was the beginning of the canal building era. The canals had to be near rivers and this limited their use for transportation. By 1833 a train called "Old Ironsides" ran between Philadelphia and Norristown, and this started the great railroad building era.



Use the map above to answer the following questions.

1. Place an X on the map where you live. What canal is nearest your home?

2. Trace the route you would take to go from your hometown to Philadelphia by canal.

3. Use Map Skills 9 and compare the railroads of today with the map above. Why don't we use railroads for passenger transportation today? _____

SOMETHING EXTRA

Take a trip to a place near your home where there is still part of a canal. Imagine how slow travel must have been in the early 1800's. Make a report to your class.