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Winter 2011 - Volume 1 - No. 2 | Preserving our heritage to enrich our future.

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Animated Geology Lessons Coming to Tales Website

Animated science lessons that illustrate and explain the formation of anthracite coal, iron ore, slate, and limestone are coming to the Tales of the Towpath website in January.



Written and illustrated by Saucon Valley High School science teacher, Lance Leonhardt, the geology lessons are the first installments in a digital lesson library being developed for the website by Killer Interactive of Bethlehem, PA. As additional program funding is acquired, more lessons will be added to explain the science and technology found in Tales of the

Online Articles

- [Schedule your traveling trunk now](#)
- [Immersion Days at Hugh Moore Park](#)
- [Tales receives grant from Lehigh Valley philanthropist](#)
- [Free books on coal mining, canals available to teachers and libraries](#)

Finn Gorman Wants To Hear From You



Towpath.

Koray Girton, Web Developer at Killer Interactive, believes the "E-Book Library" he's developing stands to become one of the most effective learning tools among today's multimedia-savvy youth. ([To continue, click here.](#))

Tales Receives State's Top Social Studies Award

Tales of the Towpath received the 2011 Outstanding Social Studies Program Award from the Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies (PCSS) at the PCSS Annual Conference in Pittsburgh on Oct. 13. The PCSS is the umbrella organization for Social Studies educators in the



Commonwealth and promotes quality Social Studies education from kindergarten to higher learning. Dennis Scholl, D&L Outreach Coordinator and author of the Tales of the Towpath children's book, traveled to Pittsburgh to accept the award.

The PCSS considered Tales of the Towpath to be a Social Studies program of outstanding quality based on a sound and professional curricular framework. The curriculum was judged on the following criteria: articulation of creative ideas and thinking; balance of content; innovative and creative teaching techniques and materials; display of thinking skills and processes; and involvement of students, community, and teachers.

"We appreciate the extensive amount of time and resources that were poured into such a curriculum," said Kimberly Kochanski, Pocono Mountain School District Social Studies Department Head and Awards Chairperson for the PCSS. "It is encouraging that multiple school districts integrate Tales of the Towpath within their elementary schools and attest to its quality."

Allentown School District Honored at

Poor Finn Gorman. He sits at his computer day and night, waiting to receive his first e-mail question through the [Tales of the Towpath website](#). Finn's e-mail bin is empty all the time.

"Good gracious, I've got so much information to share," Finn laments each time he opens his bin. "If only the children would get in touch; I have so much more to tell them."

Teachers, please help Finn. We are concerned about him; he is, after all, 85 years old. Please encourage your students to send him questions. He's a lickety-split typer and will reply to your students in 2-3 school days.

To buoy our aging book character's spirits, we're beginning a new contest designed to increase his e-mail flow.

We will award a prize to the classroom that submits the most questions during a one-month period beginning January 1, 2012. The prize is a set of four canal-related posters, each measuring 20-by-25 inches and depicting an aspect of canal life. Poster titles include "It's a Short Commute," "The Canaler's Life," "Coal for Cabbage," and "From Mountain to Market." They are filled with good information and will look great on your classroom walls.

Finn is not big on rules, but he would like the questions to pertain to the book or other aspects of his life, whether on the canal or at home or school.

D&L Annual Dinner

The Allentown School District was honored at the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor's recent annual dinner for its role in the development of the Corridor's fourth-grade Social Studies/Language Arts curriculum, Tales of the Towpath.



The D&L recognized ASD with its Legacy Award, given annually to a person or organization that conveys the Corridor's mission through interpretation, education, or outreach activities. The award was accepted by ASD Chief Academic Advisor, Dr. Regina Cesario.

Allentown School District played an integral part in the development of Tales of the Towpath. ASD GEAR UP Program Director, Myron Yoder, a member of the D&L's education team that developed the curriculum, facilitated a two-year pilot program in the district's Jefferson and Sheridan elementary schools. Input from teachers Robin Hohe and Lori Friebolin and their fourth- and fifth-grade students helped the D&L organize and align the curriculum with state standards. The district adopted the curriculum in 2009 and supplied all 15 of its elementary schools with books, traveling trunks and artifacts, curriculum guides for fourth-grade teachers, and Act 48 teacher training. Today, all fourth-graders in the Allentown School District read and study Tales of the Towpath a part of their introduction to local history.

New Schools Join Tales Program

Seventeen elementary schools in the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor are implementing Tales of the Towpath for the first time during the 2011-2012 school year.

We welcome these new schools:

- George Wolf and Moore elementary schools in Northampton School District

Questions also can be about information on the website. Finn asks teachers to screen the students' questions to avoid duplicates and "non-relevants," as he calls them. Students must identify themselves with first and last initials. They also must identify their teacher and school. Questions also can be sent from home with the help of an adult.

We have six sets of posters to award. A contest will be held once every two months during the school year as long as the sets last. Finn took a picture of one of his friends holding a poster; you can see it by [clicking here](#).

The first contest ends January 31. Posters will be delivered to the winning classroom by February 15. The second contest begins March 1 and follows the same timeline. A classroom can win only once.

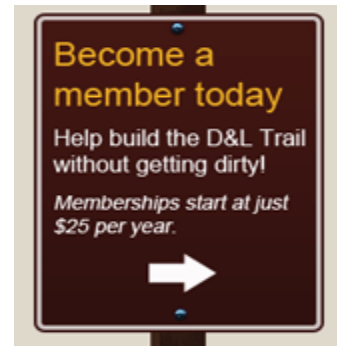
To reach Finn, click the "Ask Finn" tab on the website's menu bar. An easy-to-follow question page will pop up. Introduce your students to it and let them type away. Students can submit questions as often as they want, so long as the questions aren't duplicates of those already sent from their classroom.

"By dingy, I can't wait until the questions start comin' in," Finn said when he was told about the contest. "Children can learn so much about the past by talkin' to people who were there. And I sure was there."

- Saints Peter and Paul Parochial School in Lehighton
- Titus and Warwick elementary schools in Central Bucks School District
- McKinley, Ramos, and Central elementary schools in Allentown School District
- Hillcrest and Richboro elementary schools in Council Rock School District
- Neidig, Pfaff, Quakertown, Richland, Tohickon Valley, and Trumbauersville elementary schools in Quakertown School District
- Bethlehem Christian School, Blue Mountain Campus, Cherryville

Tales of the Towpath is now in 66 public, private, parochial and charter schools as well as Delaware Canal State Park and Lehigh Gap Nature Center.

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D&L Links:

- [Take a virtual tour of the Lehigh Canal](#)
- [A field guide to Delaware Canal State Park](#)
- [Education opportunities at Lehigh Gap Nature Center](#)



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Our Mission: To enrich the communities within the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor thru actions and partnerships that conserve the resources, tell the stories and enhance the quality of life for residents of the Corridor.