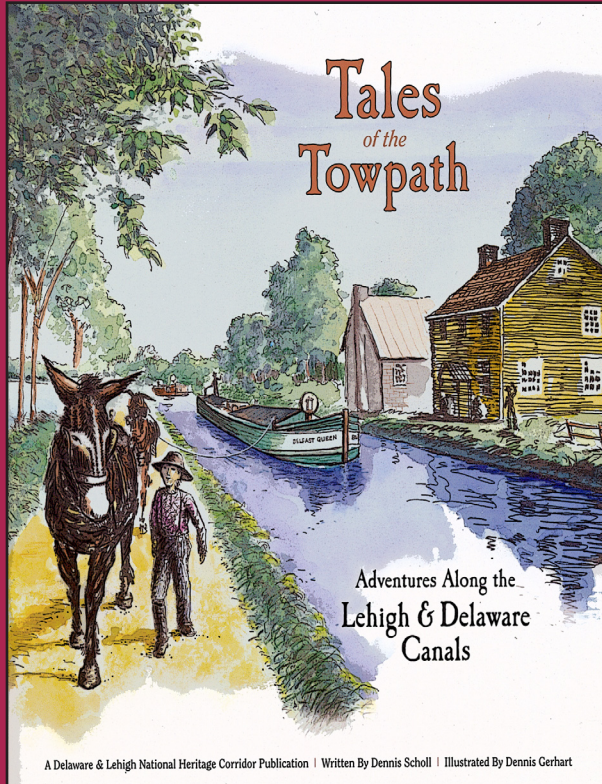


Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor

Where America was Built™

Tales of the Towpath School Curriculum



The **Tales of the Towpath** traveling trunks curriculum offers 4th- and 5th-grade students a unique opportunity to explore mid-19th century life along the Lehigh and Delaware canals and understand the canals' importance in the growth of the American Industrial Revolution.

Developed by an advisory committee comprised of teachers, principals, curriculum coordinators and local historians living in the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (D&L), the **Tales of the Towpath** curriculum is centered on an illustrated storybook of the same name written by D&L Outreach Coordinator, Dennis Scholl. The book follows the life of a young Irish boy - Finn Gorman - whose father takes his family to America in 1846 and eventually becomes a canal boat captain. Young Finn's adventures lead readers on a journey into the D&L's past, when anthracite coal was fueling unbridled industrial and economic growth.

The curriculum arrives at participating schools in reproduction 19th-century ship trunks. Each trunk contains an inventory of items representative of 19th-century life along the canals and in coal towns. Teachers implementing the curriculum are trained by the D&L at required Act 48 training sessions. Teachers from 32 elementary schools representing 10 Corridor school districts trained in 2009. The curriculum is being taught in the following school districts: Bethlehem, Northampton, Pen Argyl, Catasauqua and Wilson Area in Northampton

County; Allentown and Northern Lehigh in Lehigh County; Hanover Area School District, Luzerne County; Jim Thorpe School District, Carbon County; and Council Rock School District, Bucks County.

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D&L



For more information, contact

Dennis Scholl
D&L Outreach Coordinator
dennis@delawareandlehigh.org
610-923-3548 x225

www.delawareandlehigh.org

