**Close Reading Workshop: Explore History of the Blackstone Canal**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**First Reading: Understand the Passage**

Read the passage silently. Your focus is on understanding the meaning of the passage. Practice replacing words you may not know with synonyms or definitions provided in the vocabulary.

**Second Reading: Vocabulary in Context**

Now that you have read the passage silently, listen and follow along as your teacher reads the passage aloud. As you read along with your teacher, circle words and/or phrases (other than the underlined words) that you do not know or that you feel are important to the meaning of the passage.

**Check for Understanding**

1. Pair with another student and, using context clues and reference materials; determine the meaning of any new words you need to define. Then, choose six words from the vocabulary that you have circled. How did the definitions help you understand the meaning of the passage?
2. Choose two or three of the words you have examined that you think are significant to understand the passage. Use the words in sentences as part of a summary explaining the central ideas in the passage and explaining how these words contribute to your understanding of the passage.

**Third Reading: Text Dependent Questioning**

Now read the passage again, this time with the focus of reading to understand the questions being answered by the passage. Next to each paragraph in the text, write a question that the paragraph is answering. For example, the first paragraph is answering the statement “Describe the Blackstone River” or the question “What is the Blackstone River like?”

**Check for Understanding**

1. Pair with another student and compare your questions. Find a paragraph where you both had similar questions and a paragraph where you wrote different questions. Why do you think you and your partner approached some paragraphs different from each other?

**Fourth Reading: Synthesizing Your Understanding**

Now that you have read the passage three times and studied its vocabulary, synthesize your understanding by choosing one sentence or phrase that encapsulates the overall purpose or argument of the passage.