

I can explain how the colonial times are connected to westward expansion.

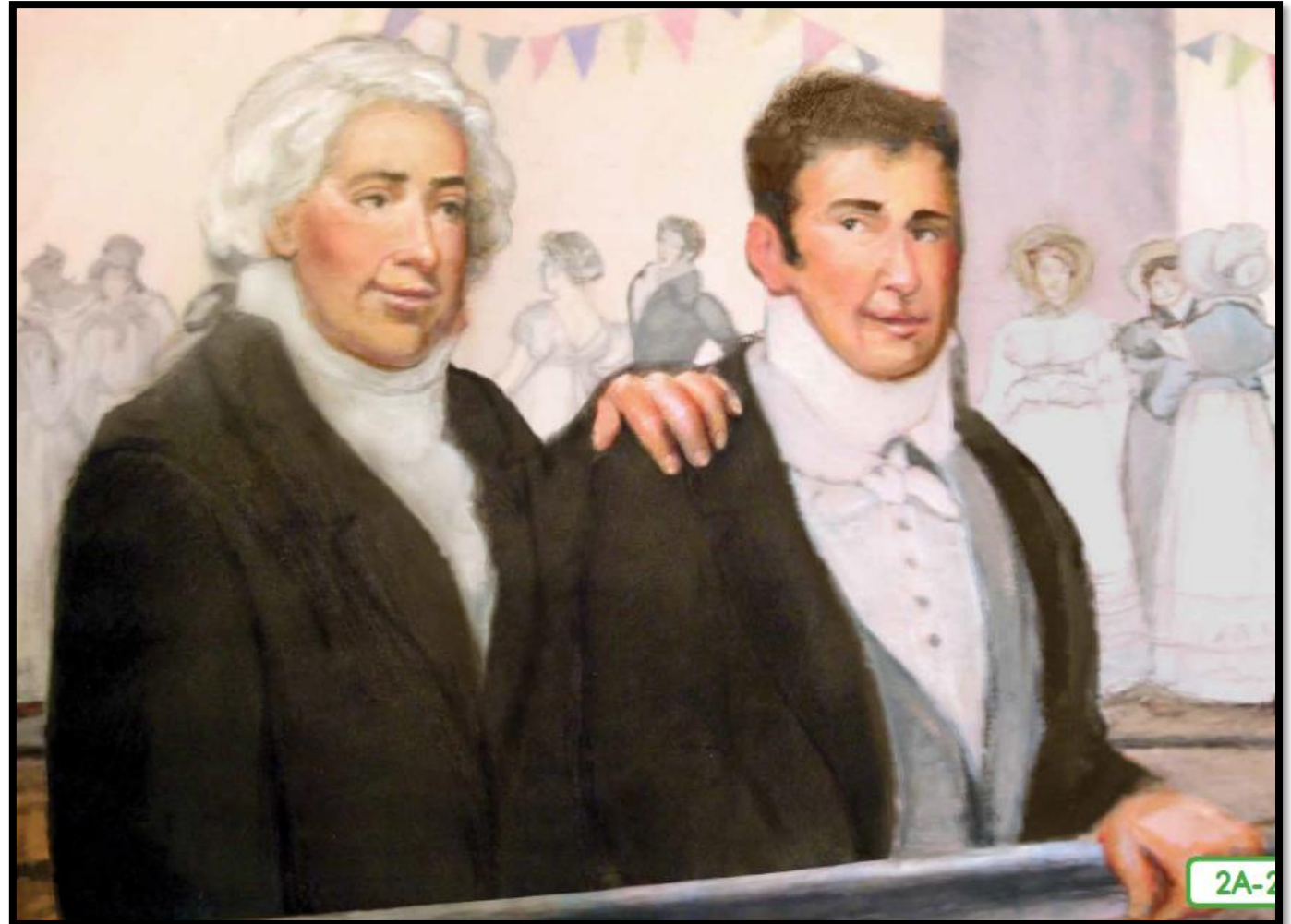
Yo puedo explicar cómo el tiempo de las colonias están conectadas con la expansión hacia el oeste.

As she stepped from the dock onto the boat, the lady in the pink dress held a matching pink parasol, or umbrella, above her head. It was a sunny August day in 1807 in New York City, and she wanted to protect her delicate skin from the sunlight. She smiled at one of the boat's owners. "Mr. Fulton," she said, "I hope your boat will do everything you have built her to do."

The lady's husband shook Mr. Fulton's hand and said, "It will be a great day if you succeed, Fulton; a great day, indeed!" Then the couple walked forward to join the other ladies and gentlemen already on board. The man whom they had greeted, Robert Fulton, wore a confident smile, but inside, he was terribly nervous. He thought to himself, "If all goes well today, I will be rich, and people all over the world will know my name. If I fail, I will lose a great deal of money and be laughed at as a dreamer and a fool. That must not happen!"

Fulton felt a hand on his shoulder and turned to find his business partner, Robert Livingston, standing at his side. Robert Livingston was a wealthy, important man. He had worked for the government both in the United States and in Europe. Many years ago in 1801, while Fulton was in Europe doing business, he met Livingston at a restaurant in Paris. Fulton told Livingston, "What I am working on right now will forever change the way people travel and the way in which everyone does business."

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Livingston's eyes lit up with interest. "Tell me more, Fulton," he said. "Well, as you know, an Englishman has invented what he calls a 'steam engine.' Basically, you light a coal or wood fire inside of a furnace to heat a boiler of water. When the fire gets very hot, the water is also heated, and steam comes off it. That steam is fed to an engine and provides energy to power the engine."

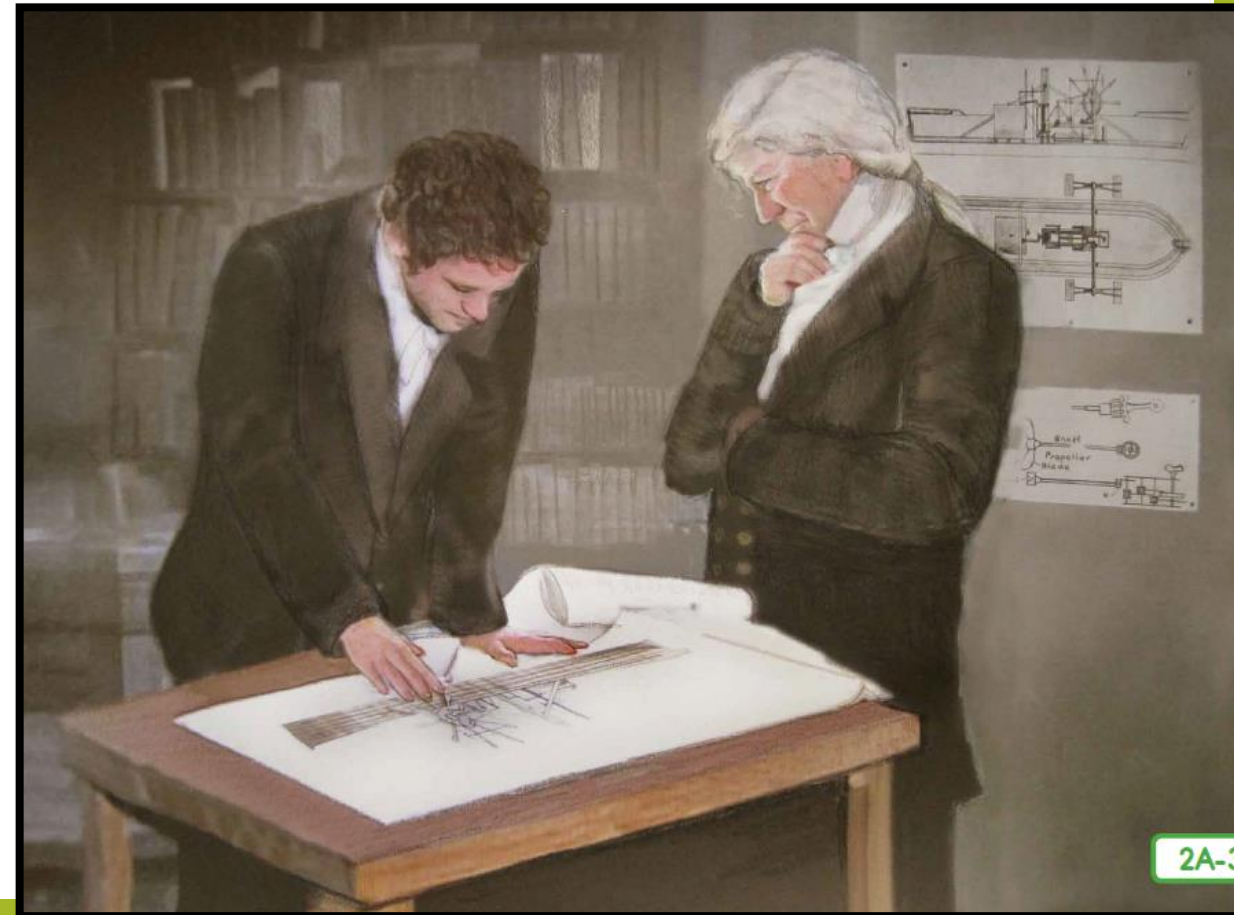
"Yes, I have heard of this steam engine," Livingston replied,

"Please, continue."

"I'm sure you have also heard of **steamboats.**"

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“Actually, I have,” said Livingston.

Fulton continued, “Well, Livingston, I plan on building one. But my steamboat will be much better than the ones already made. I shall use steam power to turn paddles on the back of the boat.

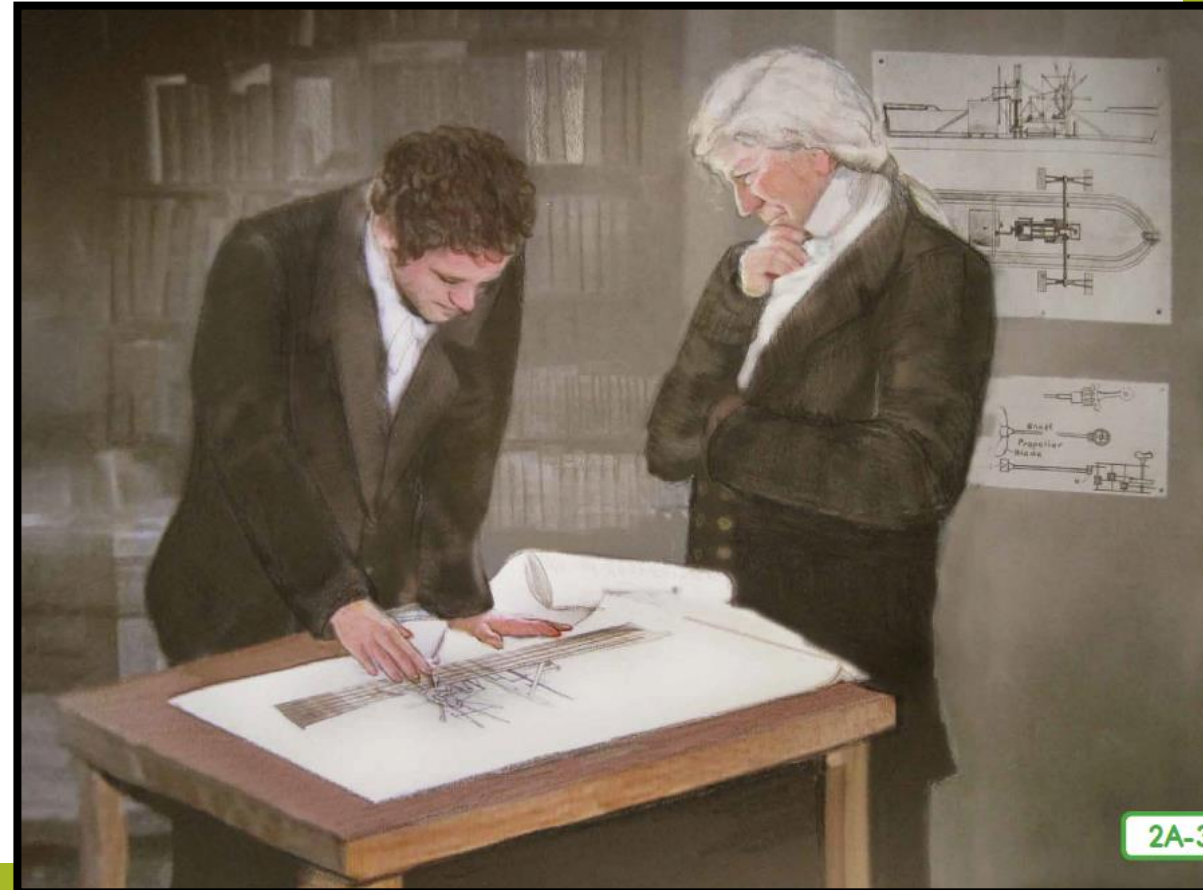
With steam turning the paddles, the boat will move more quickly than by using human muscle or wind in a sail.”

“Extraordinary!” said Livingston.

“That is not all,” Fulton continued. “My boat will be flat on the bottom, not curved. This will allow us to carry more people and products on each **voyage**. Picture a whole fleet of such boats, Livingston! Why, the owners would become richer than even you can imagine.”

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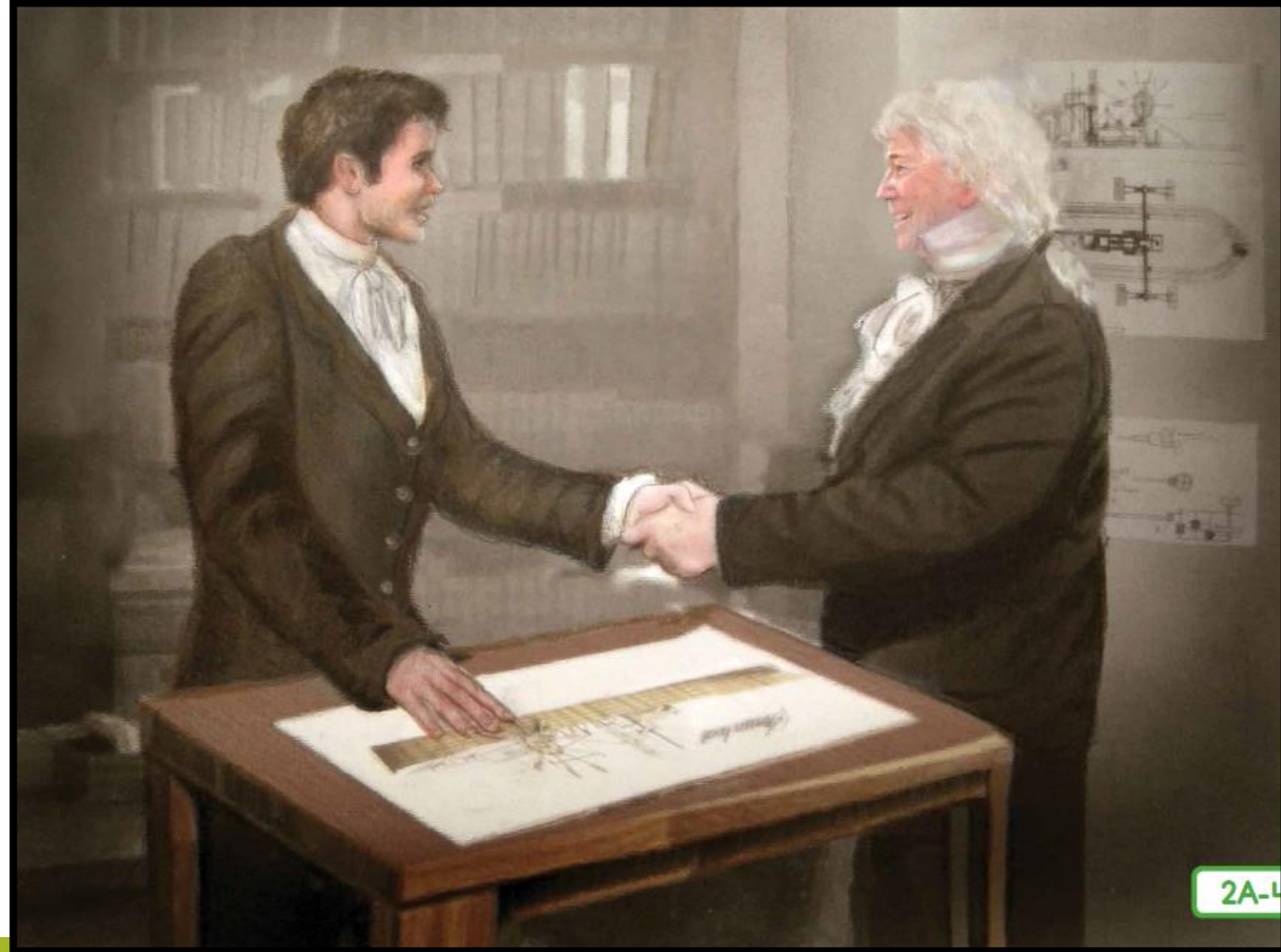
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Livingston noticed that Fulton had used the word *us*, as if he were already sure that Livingston would join him in this project.

Livingston didn't mind. He agreed to help fund the plan, and the two friends became partners. Livingston knew that Fulton was not the only **inventor** working to **design** a steamboat, but the two men thought Fulton's design was far better than any other.

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After many years of countless improvements to the boat's design, the day for the steamboat's first voyage had finally arrived. Now, standing on deck, Livingston said, "Those were our last guests coming aboard, Fulton. We can begin our journey whenever you are ready." Fulton turned to his boat's captain, who told him, "The engine is all fired up, sir. I await your orders."

"Then let us begin," Fulton answered.

The captain called to several sailors, "Cast off bow and stern lines!" The sailors untied the thick ropes holding the boat to the dock. Then the captain turned to the pilot, whose job it was to steer the boat, and told him, "Take us to Albany!" As the guests on board and the spectators on the dock began to cheer, steam began to pour from the boat's smokestack. The **steamboat** was on its way!

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The plan was to travel along the wide Hudson River from New York City to the state capital of Albany, stopping briefly at Livingston's home in Clermont, New York—which explains the name of Fulton's steamboat: *North River Steamboat of Clermont*. Not only did the steamboat have to make the trip safely in order to show that steam travel would work, the boat also had to move faster than other types of boats—or no one would see any reason to switch to steam. As the viewers on the dock watched the steamboat paddle away, some people said, "I don't see how they will ever do it!" Others said, "Let's wait and see. After all, this fellow Fulton convinced Robert Livingston, a man who controls much of the river travel in New York, that his plan would work!"

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State capital – Capital del estado



The believers were right. About two days later, a second crowd stood cheering on the dock in Albany as Fulton's steamboat puffed into view. The steamboat had taken less than two days for a voyage that usually took sailing ships four days!

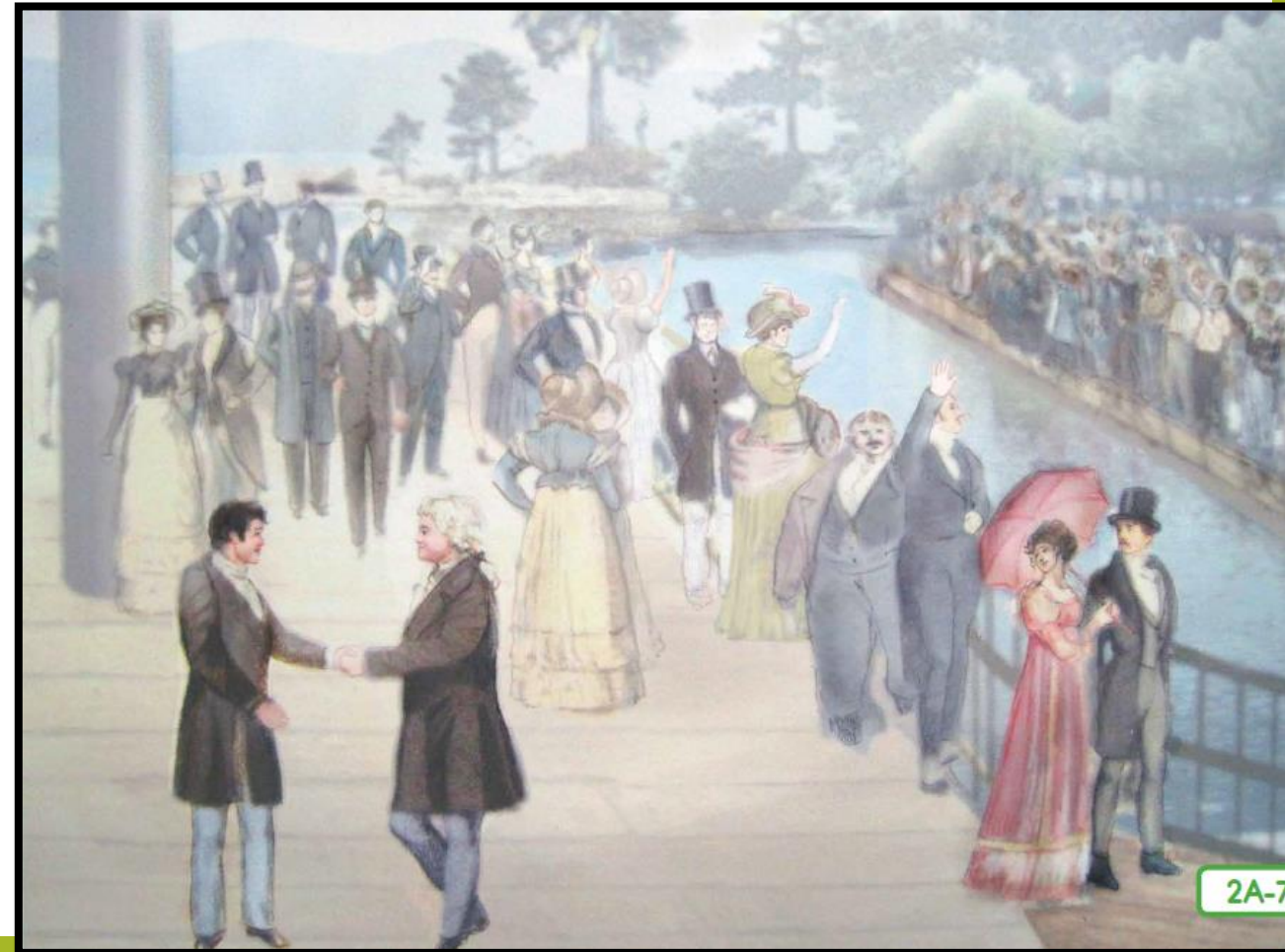
"Congratulations, Mr. Fulton," said the lady in the pink dress as she and her husband stepped off the boat. "Many didn't believe it could be done. You proved them wrong."

Shaking Fulton's hand, Livingston said, "Congratulations, Fulton! New York will never be the same!"

"No, Livingston," Fulton replied, "the *world* will never be the same!"

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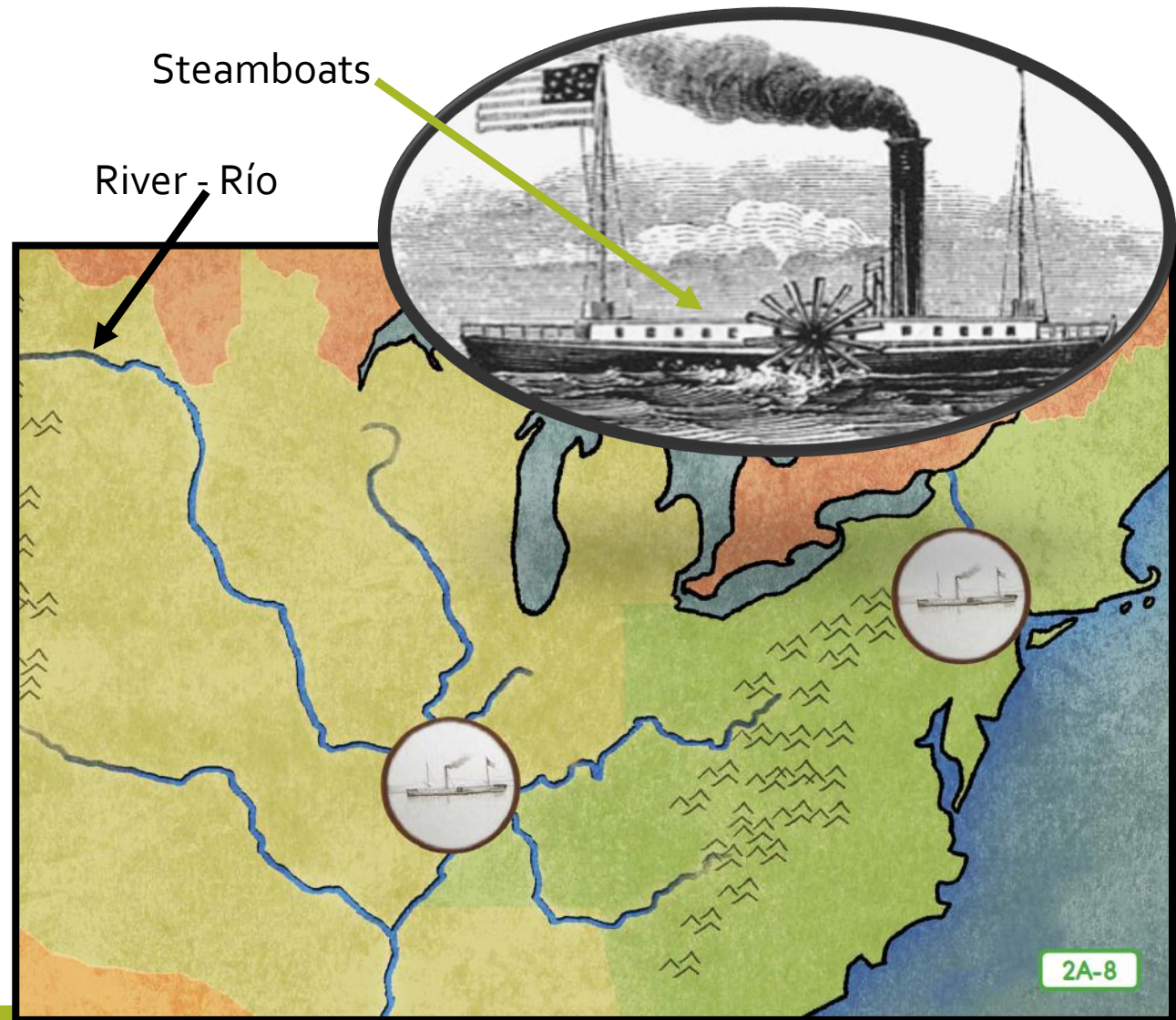




Robert Fulton was right. Over the next few years, the two partners set a whole fleet of steamboats afloat on the Hudson River and the Mississippi River. People realized that steamboats were faster, much cheaper, and much more reliable than other types of transportation. There was only one problem. Steamboats needed rivers to travel on, and there were no rivers between some of the biggest cities. So, people still couldn't use steamboats to go everywhere they wanted.

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## Comprehension Questions

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1. *Evaluative* What is the main topic of the read-aloud?
2. *Inferential* What was the setting of this read-aloud? Is this located in the East or the West?
3. *Inferential* Why were Robert Fulton, Robert Livingston, and others taking an important journey on the steamboat?
4. *Inferential* Was Fulton's voyage a success? Why?
5. *Evaluative* Why do you think Robert Fulton worked very hard as an inventor?
6. *Inferential* What was the advantage of a boat powered by steam rather than by people or the wind?
7. *Inferential* What was the disadvantage of steamboat travel?
8. *Evaluative* How do you think Fulton's steamboat affected westward expansion?