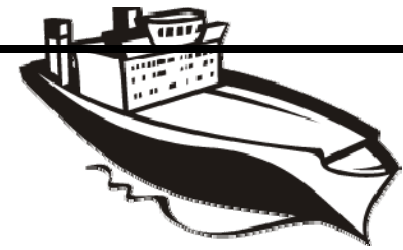


Name _____ **Supporting Evidence**



Supporting Evidence

DIRECTIONS: Identify the assertions the author makes. Identify the supporting evidence for each assertion.

Robert Fulton didn't invent the steam engine, but he built the first steamship that was both durable and strong enough to be used commercially. His design, which hid the boiler and engine, and added awnings and cabins, made steamship travel seem like a realistic option for the masses. Distances that had formerly been prohibitive to travel were suddenly manageable. Steamships traveled up and down the Mississippi. They carried people to California during the gold rush, and opened up the orient.

Fulton faced his share of challenges as he worked on his invention. His first steamship was a huge success – right up until the hull cracked and it sank. For his next ship he combined the efforts of the best shipwriting and millworking and coppersmithing people that he could find. This new ship was 146 feet long and 12 feet wide. It had a boiler that spewed fire in between two paddle wheels. People who knew ships at the time thought that it was a disaster. But Fulton insisted that his North River Boat was ready to make its way up the Hudson River to Albany. When it came time to start, rather than the explosion expected by the onlookers, the ship simply refused to start. But Fulton tinkered with it and it soon got underway. It ultimately finished its journey to Albany in a day and a half, rather than the week it usually took to travel that distance by sloop, and the age of the sail was succeeded by the age of steam.

ASSERTION #1:

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE:

ASSERTION #2:

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE: