

**Math Grades 5 - 7**  
**Areas of Trapezoids**

MA.5.G.5.4  
MA.7.G.5.1

***The Go Ahead Boys and the Racing Motor-Boat***

Chapter 9: "A Friend in Need"

Ross Kay

**Reading Level: 5.2**

**Activity:**

1. In the reading, George asks, "How wide is the Erie Canal?" Grant replies, "Seventy feet wide on the surface and fifty-six feet wide at the bottom." He later states that the depth of the Erie Canal is about seven feet. Use these dimensions to label the cross-section of the canal depicted below by a trapezoid.



2. Find the area of the trapezoid.

3. If the depth of the canal were doubled, how would the area be affected?