

Name _____

Date _____

Who Built the First Commercially Successful Steamboat?

Robert Fulton was an American inventor who changed the way that people traveled on water and the ocean. He was born in Little Britain, Pennsylvania, in 1765. Robert received his early education at home before studying at a Quaker school. After school, Fulton spent his early years painting landscapes and drawing plans for houses and machinery.

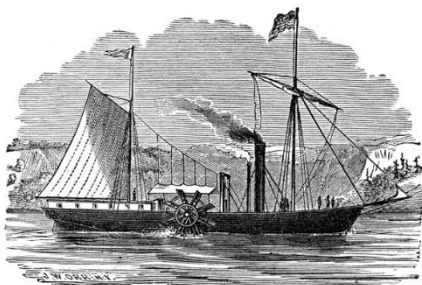


November 1765 - February 1815

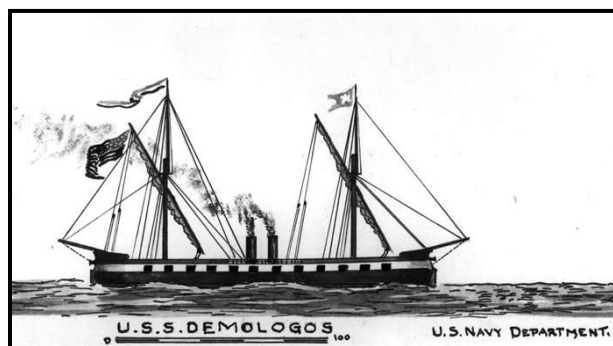


Fulton moved to London, England, in 1786 and worked painting portraits and landscapes. The money he earned he used on experiments and inventing things. Robert Fulton became fascinated with steam engines and knew one could power a boat. In 1793, Fulton traveled to France, where he developed a working submarine that could go underwater for 17 minutes at a depth of 25 feet.

In 1806, Fulton built the North River Steamboat, a successful steamboat that carried passengers 150 miles from New York City to Albany, New York. Fulton's Folly, the nickname of the North River Steamboat, became the world's first commercial steamboat. Following the success of Fulton's Folly, steamboats soon appeared up and down the Atlantic coast carrying passengers and cargo. Robert Fulton designed 17 of those early steamboats.



The last boat built by Robert Fulton was the Demologos. It was the first steam-powered warship. Robert Fulton died in 1815 from pneumonia before the warship was finished. Fulton developed pneumonia after he went into the icy waters of the Hudson River in an attempt to rescue a friend. The Demologos was finished and renamed Fulton in honor of Robert Fulton and his many contributions to society.



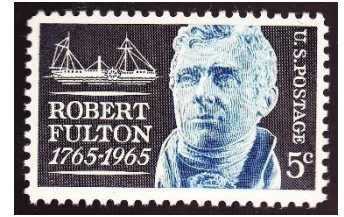
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Answer The Questions.

1. Which of the following is NOT true about Robert Fulton?

- A. He was an inventor.
- B. He painted to earn money.
- C. He was elected President of the United States.
- D. He built the first commercial steamboat.

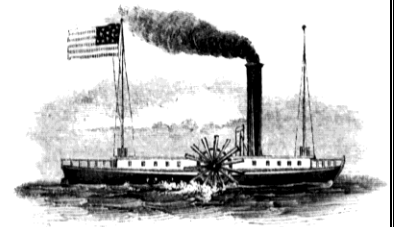


2. How long could the Fulton's submarine stay underwater?

- A. 10 minutes
- B. 12 minutes
- C. 27 minutes
- D. 17 minutes

3. Fulton's last ship, the Demologos, was a _____.

- A. warship
- B. submarine
- C. passenger ship
- D. whaling ship



4. Robert Fulton's boats were powered by _____.

- A. electricity
- B. gasoline
- C. wind
- D. steam

5. What caused Robert Fulton's death?

- A. food poisoning
- B. pneumonia
- C. drowning
- D. an accident

