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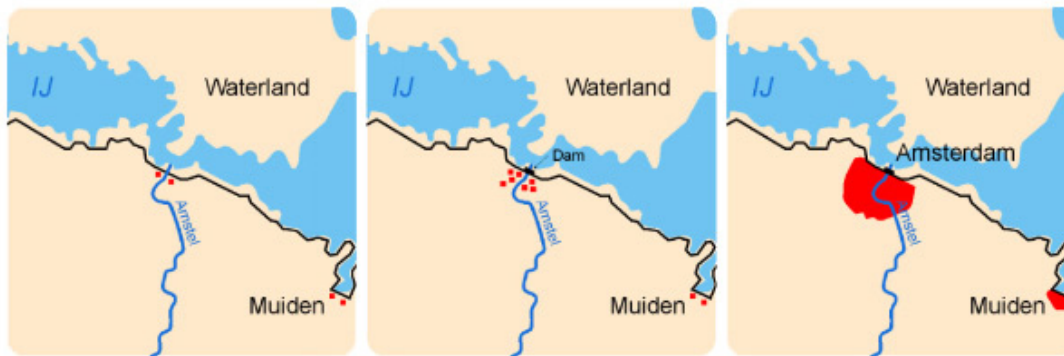

13th century   1270   1500

In the 13th century, a fishermen's village developed at the place where the river Amstel entered the IJ estuary. Later on, to prevent floods, dikes were built to protect the coast south of the IJ, and a dam with sluices was built in the river Amstel. This dam of the River Amstel gave the name to this fishermen's village. Even after it developed into a town, it still was called after the dam in the River Amstel.

Amstel + **dam** = **Amsteldam** *or* **Amsterdam**