

THE PANAMA CANAL

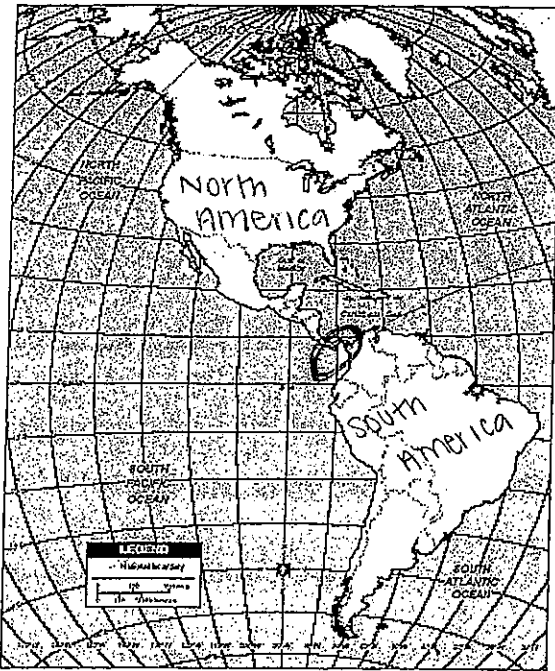
1. Label the following on the map:

North America

South America

Panama

The Americas



Map by Education Place at <http://www.eduplace.com>

2. What is an isthmus? narrow strip of land which has water on each side & bodies of land ^{connects 2 larger}

3. What is a canal and why are they built? An area of water dug across land. Canals connect bodies of water so that ships can travel between them

4. When did Europeans first start thinking about building a canal across Panama? 1534

5. What country began trying to build a canal in Panama in the 1800's? France

6. After looking through these pictures what do you think would be the challenges of trying to build a canal through a tropical jungle and mountains? (list at least 5 challenges) weather, forests, mountains, insects, illness

7. How long did France work on the Panama Canal Project? 8 years

8. How many workers died working on the project for France? 20,000

9. Why do you think France gave up on the Panama Canal Project? no money & too many deaths
10. When did the United States begin work on the Panama Canal? 1904
11. When did the United States end work on the Panama Canal? 1914
12. Who was the US President who decided to start building the Panama Canal? T. Roosevelt
13. Why did the United States want to build a canal? to make trade easier & faster.
Also, to make the movement of military ships faster & easier so the U.S. can protect its interests.
14. If a ship was going from New York to San Francisco and used the Panama canal instead of going around South America how many miles would that save? 8,000 miles
15. What is a canal lock? a part of a canal with gates at each end where boats are raised or lowered to different water levels
16. What was the land in Panama like before they began building the canal? What was there?
The land was a jungle with many trees
17. How long is the Panama canal? 50 miles
18. What is the weather like in Panama? hot and humid
19. How long does it take for a ship to travel through the canal? 8-10 hours
20. Imagine that it is 1904 and you are in Panama working on the canal. Write a short letter home to tell your family about what it is like living in Panama and working on the canal. Make sure to tell your family about why the United States wants to build the canal and why the canal is important.
