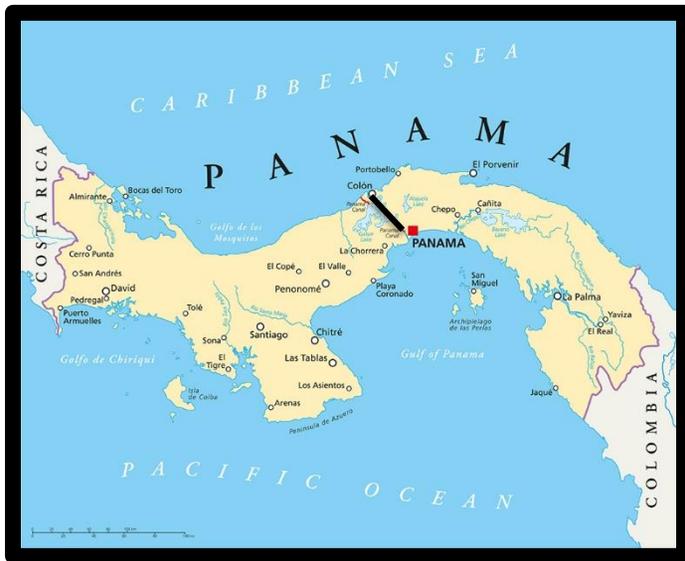




Presents

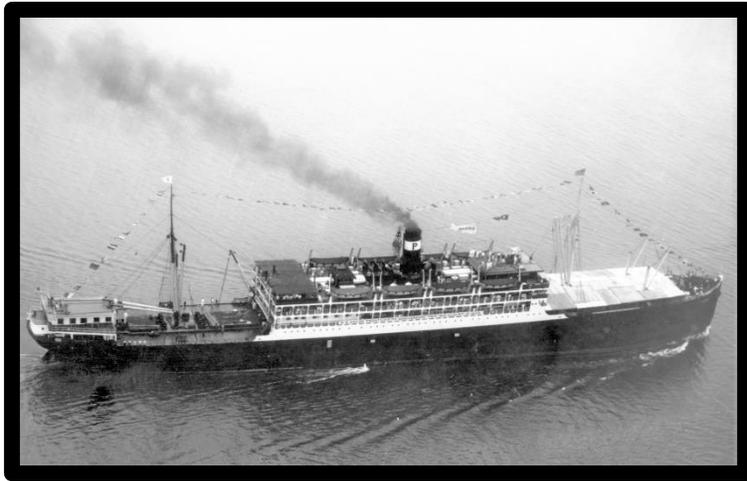
Panama Canal



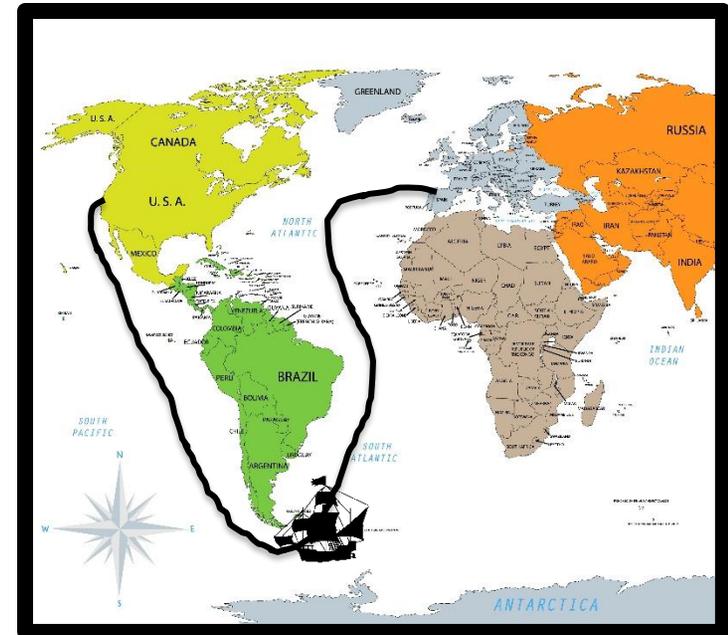
By Janet Giel-Romo, Ed.D.



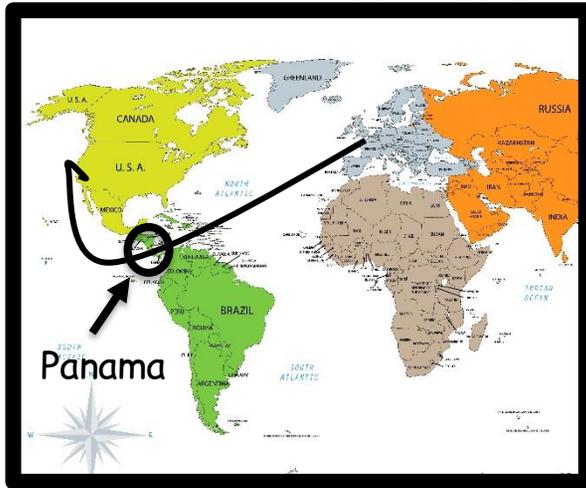
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Europe and the United States bought and sold goods from each other. They used **cargo ships** to send the goods across the ocean.



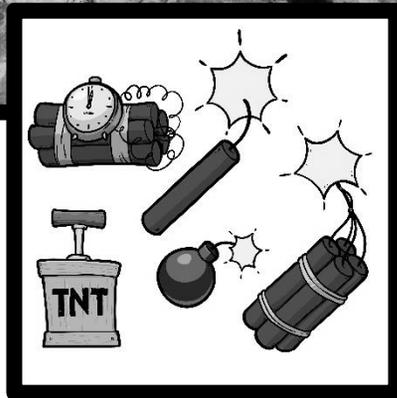
The route from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean was long. The Cargo ships had to go all the way around South America.



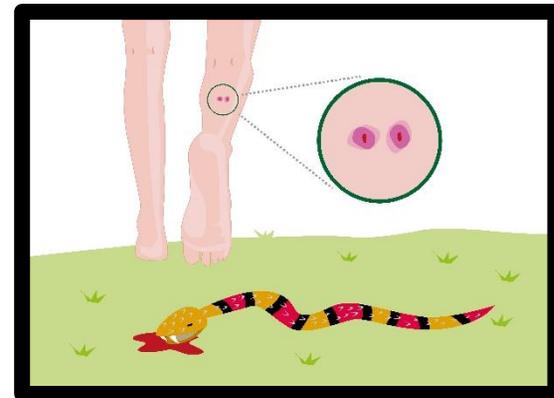
People wanted a shortcut. Building a canal in Panama would be a shortcut. A canal is river that is made by workers.



President Roosevelt wanted a shortcut too. He made a deal with Panama to start building the Panama Canal.



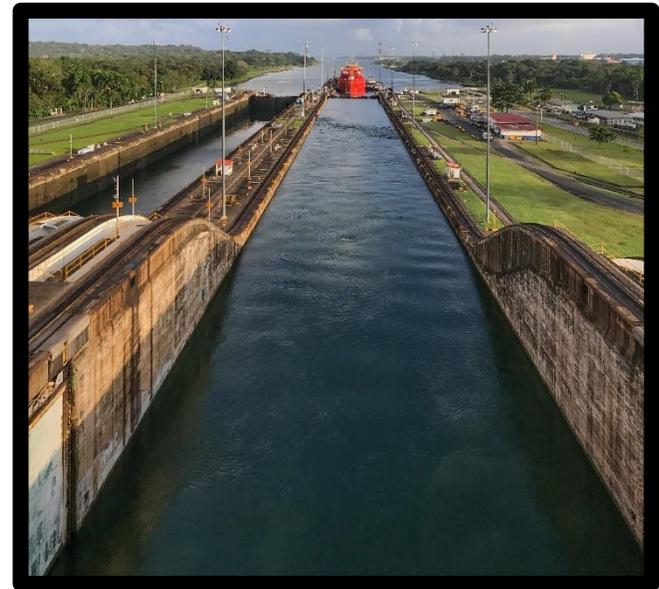
Building the Panama Canal was hard work. Dynamite was used to help blast away the rock. Some workers got hurt or killed.



Panama is a jungle. The workers had to be careful of the wildlife. Some workers were bitten by poisonous coral snakes or stung by scorpions.



Many of the workers got yellow fever or malaria. Both diseases were caused by **mosquito bites**. A lot of workers got sick or died.



Finally, the **canal** was completed. It took 10 years to build. It is about 50 miles long. It takes 8-10 hours for a ship to go through the canal.



Today ships pay a toll to use the canal. **Ships** from all over the world use the Panama Canal as a shortcut.



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