

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. What is the most likely reason the author wrote *The Panama Canal*?
 - Ⓐ to persuade readers that the building of the Panama Canal was a bad idea
 - Ⓑ to inform readers about the history of South and Central America
 - Ⓒ to persuade readers to take a vacation to the Panama Canal
 - Ⓓ to inform readers about the history and influence of the Panama Canal
2. Which event happened first?
 - Ⓐ Panama took over control of the canal.
 - Ⓑ The United States signed a treaty with the Republic of Panama to begin work on the canal.
 - Ⓒ Workers became sick with yellow fever.
 - Ⓓ The first steam shovel arrived and workers began digging the 50-mile canal from Colón to Panama City.
3. What caused the majority of canal workers to become sick?
 - Ⓐ food
 - Ⓑ pollution
 - Ⓒ heat
 - Ⓓ mosquitoes
4. Which detail supports the idea that the Panama Canal was very hard to build?
 - Ⓐ In 1914, the Panama Canal officially opened.
 - Ⓑ By 1905, most American workers had left Panama, overwhelmed with the task.
 - Ⓒ The idea of linking the Atlantic and Pacific with a canal was not new.
 - Ⓓ Today the canal is an old timer, but is no less busy.

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5. What was the result of having to build the canal through the mountains?
 - Ⓐ John Stevens moved the location of the canal to a different country.
 - Ⓑ John Stevens created a series of locks over mountains.
 - Ⓒ John Stevens could not find a solution and gave up.
 - Ⓓ John Stevens decided to build a road instead of a canal.
6. *A narrow strip of land connecting two larger landmasses* is called _____.
 - Ⓐ a canal
 - Ⓑ a lock
 - Ⓒ an isthmus
 - Ⓓ a channel
7. What is the main reason why the Panama Canal was built?
 - Ⓐ to increase trade
 - Ⓑ to help the people of Central America
 - Ⓒ to create jobs for Americans
 - Ⓓ to try out the new steam shovel
8. The word **canal** means _____.
 - Ⓐ a waterway that is dug across land and used for transportation or irrigation
 - Ⓑ the buying and selling of goods
 - Ⓒ a group of people who make decisions about laws
 - Ⓓ a formal agreement between two nations or groups
9. Which word best describes President Roosevelt?
 - Ⓐ excited
 - Ⓑ determined
 - Ⓒ frustrated
 - Ⓓ uninterested

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10. Which detail is found in this book?

- Ⓐ The Americans signed a treaty with Colombia to build a canal.
- Ⓑ Before the canal was built, a railroad was constructed by the French.
- Ⓒ As of 2014, the Panama Canal is still operated by the United States.
- Ⓓ The *Ancon* was the first ship to sail through the Panama Canal.

11. **Extended Response:** How did John Stevens boost the morale of the workers? Why do you think this was necessary?

12. **Extended Response:** Why is the Panama Canal considered one of the wonders of the modern world? What details from the book support this idea?

Quick Check Answer Sheet

The Panama Canal

Main Comprehension Skill: Cause and Effect

1. Ⓓ *Author's Purpose*
2. Ⓑ *Sequence Events*
3. Ⓓ *Cause and Effect*
4. Ⓑ *Main Idea and Details*
5. Ⓑ *Cause and Effect*
6. Ⓒ *Vocabulary*
7. Ⓐ *Cause and Effect*
8. Ⓐ *Vocabulary*
9. Ⓑ *Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions*
10. Ⓓ *Main Idea and Details*
11. Answers will vary but should include that John Stevens improved workers' morale by creating churches, hospitals, mess halls, and schools. Students should explain that by providing workers with these basic services, they were more likely to feel a sense of belonging, community, and support which in turn would lift their morale and increase work production.
12. Answers will vary but should begin by explaining that the engineering and manpower behind building the Panama Canal was unprecedented at the time owing to its size and complexity. Students should reference details from the text that support this fact, including the development of new technology to create the lock system.