

## THE PANAMA CANAL

### What do you know about the Panama Canal?

The **Panama Canal** is located in **Central America**, and connects the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean (via the Caribbean Sea). It was built in the early 1900's in order to create a **shorter route for trade**. Before the Panama Canal was built, merchants were forced to travel around the southern tip of South America, which took a very long time.

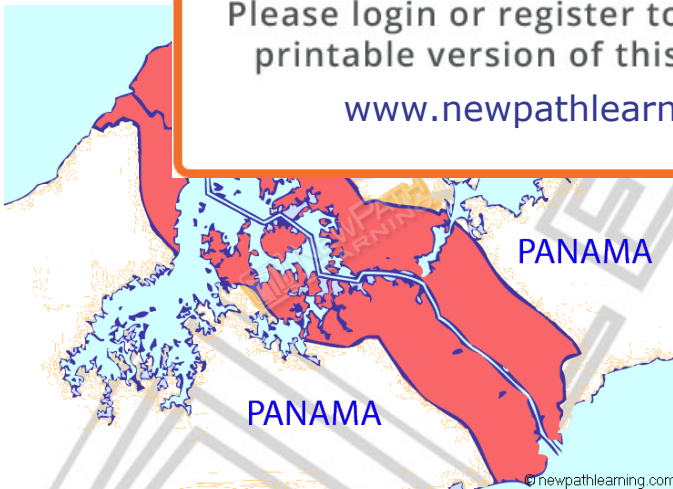


Work on the Canal began in **1881**, and the Canal was finished in **1914**. The canal was originally built by the French, but the United States took over the construction after the French stopped working. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Panama Canal Act in 1914. The United States now owns the Panama Canal.



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Many workers died during the construction of the canal. Disease and environmental conditions were two reasons that workers did not survive.

The Panama Canal was controlled by the United States after construction was finished. Eventually, control was given back to Panama. We still use the Panama Canal today to travel and trade goods. Over 14,000 large ships pass through the Canal each year now, carrying goods to trade or people on travel.