

Name _____

The Panama Canal: A Marvelous Waterway Adventure

Short Answer Key

1. The United States faced challenges such as tropical diseases (malaria and yellow fever), the daunting task of excavation, and the construction of massive locks. They overcame these challenges through rigorous sanitation measures, the use of engineering innovations like locks, and a dedicated workforce.
2. Major engineering features of the Panama Canal include the creation of massive locks that allow ships to navigate through varying water levels and the excavation of a vast quantity of earth and rock to form the canal itself.
3. The Panama Canal has shortened maritime routes, reduced travel times for ships, and facilitated the efficient transportation of goods worldwide, impacting global trade and maritime transportation positively.
4. "New Panamax" or "Neo-Panamax" ships are larger vessels that can pass through the expanded Panama Canal. They are significant because they allow for more substantial cargo loads, further enhancing the canal's role in global trade.
5. The Panama Canal has played a significant role in Panama's development and prosperity by generating revenue from tolls, creating job opportunities, and fostering economic growth in the region.

