A Modern Marvel

Building the canal

As construction got underway, Panama's President, Thomas Roden襁褓, assigned the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to take over. In 1904, workers began building the locks.

What is a lock?

Locks are mechanisms that raise or lower the water level in the canal by controlling water from one chamber to another. If a boat is going from a river into a lake and the river is at a higher elevation, workers will raise the water level in the lake to allow the boat to exit the lock. The lock will then slowly release its water to the lake, allowing the boat to safely complete its journey.

One worker, from The Mini Page © 2014 Universal Uclick

Overcoming Obstacles

A tiny insect threatens a huge project

Dr. Gorgas attacked the mosquito problem with scientific methods.

- Using mosquito nets to keep people indoors at night.
- Spraying with DDT to kill mosquitoes.
- Encouraging people to prevent the growth of certain chemicals in mosquito habitats.
- Moving or draining the stagnant water.

One of the many Dr. Gorgas worked against was the mosquito, which thrived in the hot and humid climate of Panama. He experimented with various solutions to combat the insect, including spraying with DDT and using mosquito nets. He also encouraged people to avoid stagnant water, which provided a perfect breeding ground for the insects.

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Return to Panama

In 1977, the United States and Panama signed a treaty, or agreement, that changed the ownership of the canal. The United States would no longer own it, and Panama would manage the canal.

Panama Canal facts

- About 40 ships pass through the canal each day.
- It takes a ship about 10 hours to move through the canal.
- About two-thirds of the ships passing through the canal are going westbound.
- Panama's flag is red with white emblem.

The Panama Canal

The Panama Canal is a narrow strip of land with a variety of interesting facts. It is still under construction and is expected to be completed in early 2016. The canal is a vital part of the world's transport network, allowing ships to travel between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Rookie Cookie's Recipe

Soba Noodles With Edamame

You'll need:
1 cup soba noodles
2 tablespoons reduced-sodium soy sauce
2 teaspoons toasted sesame oil
1 tablespoon chopped chives

What to do:
1. Grill the soba noodles according to package directions. Drain and transfer to a large bowl.
2. Place the edamame and soy sauce in the bowl with the soba noodles.
3. Refrigerate until ready to serve or pack for lunch. Serve hot or cold.

Jess specializes in being a voice actor. He is the voice of Chilly in the Disney Junior series “Doc McStuffins.” He has been a voice actor in many movies, including “Finding Nemo,” “Toy Story,” and “Finding Dory.”

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The Mini Page provides a fun and educational resource for children, with activities and games that aim to help kids learn about science, history, and other subjects.

Mini Spy

Mini Spy and her friends are visiting the Panama Canal. They have a list of challenges to complete. The Mini Page provides clues and hints that help them solve the riddles.

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