

Social Studies, Grade 6

Unit V: Lesson B4

Ship's Log: **What a Time Saver!**



Research the worldwide changes brought about by building a canal from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Focus on how shipping and trade were affected. Brainstorm two lists of positive and negative results. Consider the importance of the Panama Canal to the worldwide trade.

Keep a ship's log of an imaginary trip through the Panama Canal. Record daily activity and computations of miles traveled. Compare the distance and time saved for two imaginary ships traveling from New York to San Francisco, one by the way of the Panama Canal and one by way of the tip of South America. Be sure to research the miles involved in each journey and assume the ships travel at the speed of 360 miles per 24 hours. Record all computations in the log.

Using learned debate skills, debate control of the Panama Canal. Resolved, "The Canal should be controlled by a major world power." After the debate, lead students in writing a persuasive letter to their senator or representative presenting their reasons for or against Panamanian control.