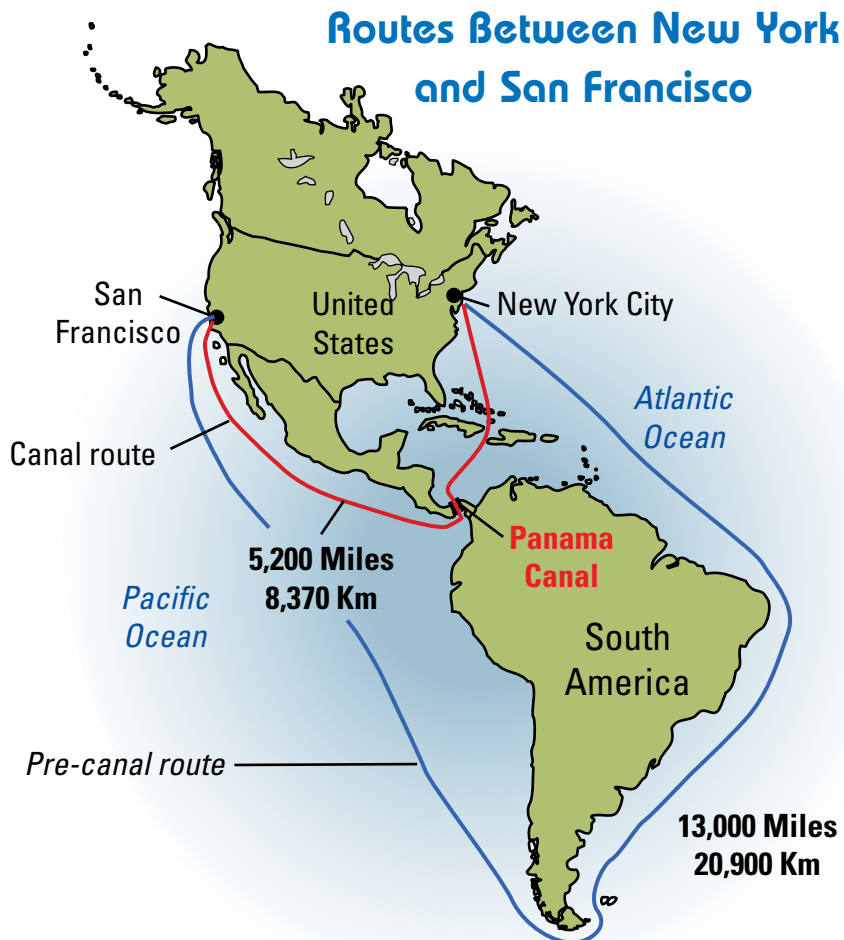


# The Amazing Canal

by Dell Sutcliff

- 1 The canal is one of the greatest inventions the world has ever known. A canal is a passage that uses water. It creates a shortcut allowing boats to travel through a land area. Without the canal, boats would have to travel around huge areas of land. Some of the oldest canals were built in Egypt nearly 4,000 years ago.
- 2 The Panama Canal is one of the most famous modern canals. It was completed in 1914. The canal stretches 51 miles across the Isthmus of Panama. It connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Before the canal was built, ships had to go around the tip of South America. The canal made the trip much shorter, faster, and safer.



### Close Reader Habits

**Underline** key details in the article that tell why canals are important. On the map, **circle** the number of miles for each of the routes from New York City to San Francisco.



Read the title and labels on a map to understand what information it shows.

## Think

- 1 According to the map and the text of the passage, what does the Panama Canal connect?
  - A Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean
  - B North America and South America
  - C Egypt and the United States
  - D New York City and the tip of South America
  
- 2 Based on the map and the text, what did you learn about canals?
  - A After the Panama Canal was built, most people still traveled around the tip of South America.
  - B The Panama Canal created a shorter but more dangerous route.
  - C Canals help people and goods get from one place to another more easily.
  - D Portions of canals stretch across large bodies of water.

## Talk

- 3 Why are canals such a great invention? Find details in the text and map that help you understand this. Talk about your ideas with your partner.

**HINT** Look at the map for details that support the text.



## Write

- 4 **Short Response** The author says that the canal is one of the greatest inventions the world has known. Write a paragraph telling why the author may have said this. Use one detail from the text and one detail from the map to support your answer. Use the space provided on page 289 to write your answer.