**US History**

**Measurement Topic 3:** The USA becomes a World Power

**Learning target #2:** What role did the USA play in the Panama Revolution and in the building of the Panama Canal?

**Directions: Read the handout and answer the questions**

The United States stepped forward as a world power with their Open Door Policy in China when it told all the powerful countries that they had to follow the Open Door Policy in China and they took another step forward to become the main world power when they build the Panama Canal. Other nations would have to negotiate with the USA to gain access to the canal. = Power for the USA

For many years nations had tried to find a passage that would connect the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. A water passage would cut down on shipping times and cost, however no water passage was ever found. Ideas had been tossed around about building a canal, however the United States and Great Britain/England had signed a treaty stating that each nation agreed not to build a canal without the others approval (neither would give the other approval). In 1901 the United States had begun to imperialize areas in Asia and had also increased its trade with Japan and China, so the United states was very interested in building a canal to cut down on shipping times and also provide access for the navy to the imperial areas the United States controlled, therefore the United states signed a new treaty with Great Britain/ England which gave the United States sole control and rights over a canal.

A French company had begun digging a canal through Panama in 1881; however they abandon it due to bankruptcy and diseases so in 1894 they sold this area to the United States. The United States was unable to begin building a canal because Panama was owned by Columbia and Columbia refused to sell the land to the United States. The United States had offered $10 million and $250,000 a year to Columbia.

**What role did the USA play in the Panama Revolution? What was the USA’s involvement in the building of the Panama Canal?**

The Panamas people wanted to be free of Colombian rule and also felt that a canal would benefit them as a country. Also the French company was afraid the USA would back out of the deal and build somewhere else so the French company and the Panamanian leaders started a revolution to gain independence from Columbia. President Roosevelt sent US military ships to Panama for support and also to keep Columbia from stopping the revolution which lead to Panama becoming independent from Columbia. Panama singed a new treaty with the United States and work started on the canal.

The Panama Canal linked the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean which resulted in trading increasing between the United States, Europe and Asia and much lower shipping cost. It also benefited the USA in that the USA could reach its imperialized areas with its navy ships much quicker if needed (Hawaii, Philippines and Guam).

Questions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences to receive full credit.

1. What is the Panama Canal?
2. Why was a Canal needed?
3. Who had begun building a canal in panama and why did they stop?
4. What did the USA offer to Columbia in exchange for control over a canal building in panama?
5. What did the USA do to support the Panama Revolution?
6. Who ended up building the canal in Panama?
7. What were the results of the Panama Canal?

Write a small summary explaining the USA involvement in the panama revolution and the USA involvement in the building of the Panama Canal.

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