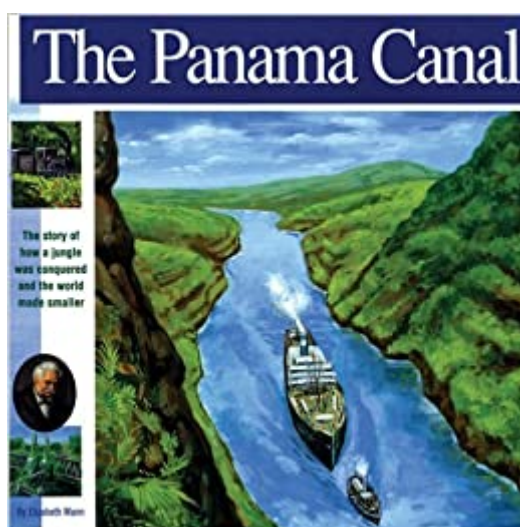


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# The Panama Canal: The Story Of How A Jungle Was Conquered And The World Made Smaller (Wonders Of The World Book)



## Synopsis

Panama was less than 50 miles wide, yet difficult to bridge by canal -- its swamps were disease-ridden, its mountainous rain forest challenged the most brilliant engineers, and its oppressive heat exhausted the hardest workers. Engineers found ways to cut through the forest, medical visionaries conquered the diseases, and workers endured the jungle. Yet there were also broken treaties, political tyranny, and the tragedy of thousands of West Indian workers forced to live in awful, segregated conditions. Wonders of the World series The winner of numerous awards, this series is renowned for Elizabeth Mann's ability to convey adventure and excitement while revealing technical information in engaging and easily understood language. The illustrations are lavishly realistic and accurate in detail but do not ignore the human element. Outstanding in the genre, these books are sure to bring even the most indifferent young reader into the worlds of history, geography, and architecture. "One of the ten best non-fiction series for young readers." - Booklist

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1010 (What's this?)

Series: Wonders of the World Book

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Mikaya Press (February 4, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1931414149

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Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #719,363 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 in [Books > Children's](#)

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Age Range: 9 - 13 years

Grade Level: 4 - 8

## Customer Reviews

Grade 3-6-A solid, approachable introduction to the often amazing story of the Panama Canal, complete with full-color illustrations and historical photos. Mann traces the starts and stops of the

undertaking from its French origins to its completion by the Americans, fueled throughout by the labor of workers from all over the world. The construction of the canal, with its locks and dams, is not an easy subject to relate. However, the author manages to render the technical language in the simplest of terms. She also addresses the unfair working and living conditions of the many laborers from the Caribbean. A pull-out illustration of how the canal works is included. Tim McNeese's *The Panama Canal* (Lucent, 1997) is more thorough, but for younger readers, Mann's book more than suffices. Carol Fazioli, The Brearley School, New York City, NY Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Mann (*The Great Wall*, 1997, etc.) offers the older end of the picture-book set a concrete, engaging narrative on another of the man-made wonders of the world. Opening her tale with the failure of the French, under Ferdinand de Lesseps, to construct their own canal in Panama, Mann quickly moves into the details of President Teddy Roosevelt's obsession with the project; he broke international law by encouraging and aiding Panama's rebellion for independence in 1903. The resulting treaty though unfair to Panama gave Roosevelt all the leverage he needed, and despite yellow fever and malaria, America soon poured thousands of workers and millions of dollars into this enterprise. While there were excellent living conditions for American workers in Panama, those conditions were not duplicated for Caribbean laborers: "Black Caribbeans suffered a higher rate of death from accidents and disease than any other group." Rangel's lavish full-color illustrations capture the immense scale of the canal's construction, from the damming of the Chagres River to the construction of the locks on a four-page, fold-out spread. Mann and Rangel have created an exceptional resource for the classroom, as well as an epic piece of storytelling. (maps, diagrams, index) (Picture book/nonfiction. 9-12) -- Copyright ©1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

I purchased this book as part of the preparation for taking my 6yo and 9yo on a cruise with a full Canal transit. The reading level is appropriate for older elementary children and the illustrations are quite beautiful. This is definitely a children's book, albeit one aimed at older kids. I agree with previous reviewers that there is a definitive slant to the history provided by the author. Were this the only resource we were using to learn about the Canal, I would have felt compelled to tweak it to remove some of the author's bias. Instead, we are opting to explore several resources about the Canal, comparing and contrasting as we go. So far our two favorites are this book and the Nova special narrated by *Path Between the Seas* author David McCullough: NOVA: A Man, a Plan, a

Canal - Panama  
Bottom line: I recommend this as a Panama Canal resource for children, with the caveat that parents should be mindful of bias if this is the only resource they will be using.

What a beautiful book for older children & adults that have little knowledge of the subject to share with each other. I will definitely be looking for the other books in this series.

We used this book for our second grade son's home schooling project on the Panama Canal while we transited the canal in our sailboat. We were happy with the information in the book and the presentation style, which helped him make sense of what he was seeing. He then went on to write quite a detailed report on the Panama Canal with this book as one of his sources.- Nadine Slavinski, author of Lesson Plans Ahoy

Good price and informative without meaning too much .

Written for a 6th -8th grade audience, I really enjoyed it as a not too detailed story of how the canal came to be. I added in my own photos, and my grandkids have a great journal of my story and the canal's story.

The book was awful. It read like a bad 6th grade book report. I threw it in the garbage the same day it arrived. It sure doesn't make me want to buy another book. Maybe I'll throw your credit card in the garbage too - I can't believe you sell crap like that.

I had greater expectations. Having just come from there, It will be okay if the grandkids do a report on it.

I know 2 people from Panama and this book illustrates magnificently their stories about one of the taken for granted for Wonders of the World. This book is a reminder when the World was disconnected via trade routes.

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