

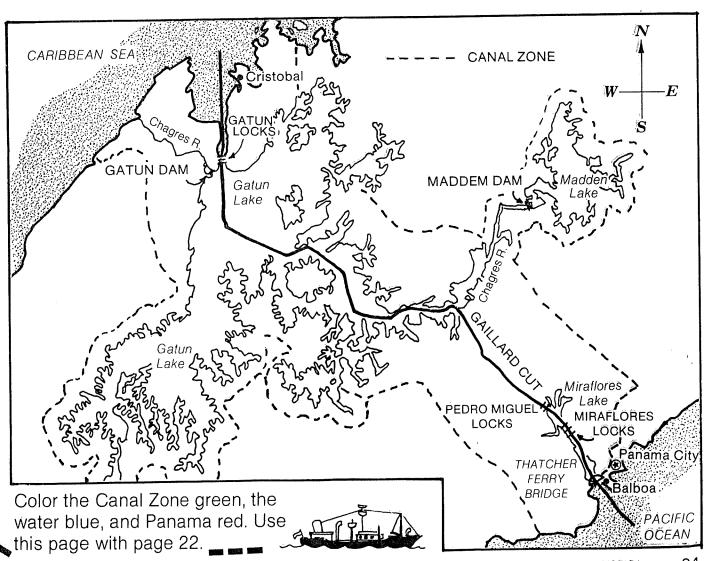
entral America.

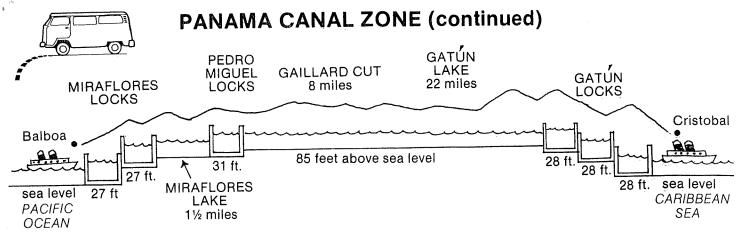


PANAMA CANAL ZONE

We say good-bye to Panama City and to <u>Central America</u>. We will go back west to Balboa, a <u>city</u> that stands at the Pacific end of the <u>Panama Canal</u>. It was named after Vasco Nunez de <u>Balboa</u>, a Spanish explorer who was the first European to see the eastern shore of the <u>Pacific</u> Ocean in 1513. He claimed its shores for <u>Spain</u>. That opened the Spanish conquest of South America. In Balboa, we find mostly American citizens who work for the Panama Canal Company, the United States government, or the United States Army.

The <u>Canal Zone</u> splits the Republic of Panama entirely in half. The boundaries are five miles on either side of the canal. The building of the 50-mile canal, in the early 1900's, by the <u>United States</u>, enabled ships traveling between New York and San Francisco to save about 7,800 miles by not having to go around the tip of <u>South America</u>. A treaty, in 1903, gave the United States the rights to govern the Canal Zone and to operate the canal. This has always caused hard feelings with the Panamanians. A new treaty has been negotiated, which will return the Canal Zone to Panama by the year 2000.





A freighter carries our van from Balboa, under the Thatcher Ferry Bridge, and to the Panama Canal. The bridge is named for the American congressman who worked to convince the government to build the canal. A special pilot comes aboard to guide our ship through the canal. First, we enter the Miraflores Locks which has two chambers which raise and lower the water level. "Mules," small electric locomotives, run on each side of the locks and pull our ship through. We then enter the Miraflores Lake and 1½ miles ahead we enter the Pedro Miguel Locks. From there we go through the Gaillard Cut, an 8-mile long, 500 feet-wide channel cut through the hills. Then, we enter Gatún Lake which was created by damming the Chagres River. We travel 22 miles to where we pass Gatún Dam. We have three chambers to go through in the Gatún Locks, and then, just 7 miles to Limón Bay, the harbor of Cristobal on the Caribbean Sea. Our 50-mile journey has taken about 8 hours.

Find the underlined words from this page and page 21 in the puzzle.

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