

Interpreting Text and Visuals

Geography of the Panama Canal *continued*

Name _____

1. Use a ruler and the map's scale to find the approximate length of the

Panama Canal.

About how far does a ship travel at sea level when passing through the canal?

2. How many locks does the canal have?

3. About how many feet above sea level is Gatun Lake?

4. Gatun Lake is one of the largest artificial lakes in the world.

Which river was dammed to create it?

5. What topographic obstacle made the Gaillard Cut necessary?

6. It has been noted ironically that although the Atlantic Ocean is east of the Pacific Ocean, a ship passing from the Atlantic to the Pacific travels from west to east through the Panama Canal. Why is this so?

About how many miles east of the Atlantic end of the canal is the Pacific end?

7. When the canal was opened in 1914, most of its cargo and passenger traffic was bound from one U.S. coast to the other. Today, use of the canal is only the eighth most common way of moving U.S. goods and people from coast to coast. What are some of the alternatives that have replaced this ocean route?

