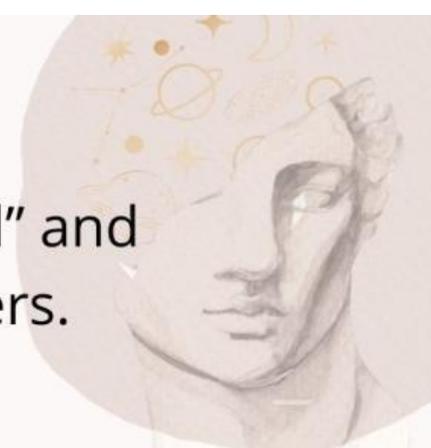


Listen to "Facts about the Panama Canal" and complete the missing words and numbers.



... and the next _____ of this talk is on the Panama _____. It's amazing how this one small section of a small country can be so _____ to the world. Let's learn a little bit about the canal itself, before we look at how it _____ to everything else.

The Panama Canal is an artificial waterway in the Central _____ country of Panama that connects the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean. It is only _____ kilometres long. If you go _____ South America by ship then you need to travel another _____ kilometres. So the canal saves a lot of _____ time. It takes around _____ to _____ hours to cross the canal.

The _____ started building the canal in _____, but they couldn't finish it. The _____ was started again in _____ by the United States and the canal was finally finished in _____. Many people died while they were building the canal, some say up to _____. For the rest of the 20th century, the _____ States controlled the canal, but gave control back to Panama in _____.

Every year, around _____ ships come through the canal. These are _____ commercial ships. They transport goods for trade between Asia and America, or Europe. In _____ the government of Panama _____ the canal bigger, so that now _____ per cent of ships can pass through it.

Let's now turn to the role of the Panama Canal in the global _____ ...