“Panama Canal” Viewing Focus Questions

*Directions:* Please answer the following questions as you watch the documentary about the Panama Canal.

1. For how long had people been trying to build a canal through Panama? What had happened to the first person to try?
2. Why did Roosevelt believe the canal was so important?
3. How did Panama achieve its independence?
4. What were some of the challenges that John Findley Wallace faced when he started trying to build the canal?
5. What is Yellow Fever? What problems did it cause?
6. How was John Stevens different from Wallace?
7. Why did they decide to build a lock canal instead of one at sea level? What new challenges did this present?
8. Where did Stevens recruit the workers to build the Panama Canal? List at least 3 places.
9. What were conditions like for the canal workers? Explain in detail.
10. Who was William Gorgas? What did he do?
11. What was the attitude toward the Canal in the United States? How did Roosevelt address this?
12. Who was George Washington Goethals? How was he different from Stevens and Wallace?
13. What was especially challenging and dangerous about the Culebra Cut?
14. How did the project managers finally get more Americans to stay and work?
15. How did the locks work?
16. What is the lasting significance of the Panama Canal?