CANAL CHARACTER CARDS

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| **President Theodore Roosevelt** | |
|  | * **I paid France $40 million to buy the rights of the project from a French company that went bankrupt.** * **To gain access to the land, I supported a revolution against Colombia so that the country of Panama would be independent.** * **Once Panama had independence, I paid the government $10 million to lease the land, plus $250,000 annually until 1999.** |

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| **President Ulysses S. Grant** | |
|  | * **I first proposed a canal project in Panama during an address to Congress.** * **I sent seven expeditions to Central America to see if a canal could be built.** * **I decided that building a canal was too dangerous and would cost too many lives.** |

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| **George Washington Goethals** | |
|  | * **I was the 3rd engineer for the canal.** * **Although I was a colonel, I never wore a uniform so I could relate more to the workers.** * **I took a high interest in the health and sanitation of the canal workers.** * **I listened to workers weekly to settle complaints and disputes.** * **My strong leadership skills ensured the canal construction was completed.** |

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| **Engineer John F. Stevens** | |
|  | * **I was the second engineer of the canal.** * **I improved workers’ happiness by introducing a food car with better food options.** * **I gave workers vaccines to protect them from yellow fever.** * **I didn’t want special treatment and bunked near the workers.** * **I resigned after 2 years due to the difficulty of the job.** |

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| **John Findley Wallace** | |
|  | * **I was the first chief engineer for the construction of the canal but resigned after one year due to the difficulty of the job.** * **I did not do a good job organizing the construction site and workers.** * **Under my leadership, food was often spoiled and living conditions were unbearable.** * **3 out of 4 American workers left because of poor working conditions and many died due to malaria and yellow fever.** |

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| **Ferdinand de Lesseps** | |
|  | * **I was a French engineer and had experience building canals.** * **I started construction of the canal in Panama but made little progress after 8 years.** * **A French court found me and my son guilty of mismanagement. I paid a heavy fine and my son went to prison for a year.** |

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| **Adolphe Godin de Lepinay** | |
|  | * **I was a French engineer that studied the Panama isthmus.** * **I also had experience with construction in tropical areas.** * **I first proposed a canal with locks that led to man-made lakes.** * **My idea was rejected by the French, but later it was used by the Americans to successfully build the canal.** |

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| **Dr. William Crawford Gorgas** | |
|  | * **I was the Chief Sanitary Officer for the canal construction zone.** * **I directed swamps to be drained so there wouldn’t be as many mosquitos, which spread malaria.** * **I led plumbing installation, road paving, and construction of homes, schools, and churches.** * **I introduced pesticides to cut down on insects.** |

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| **Antonio Sanchez** | |
|  | * **I was a construction worker for the canal.** * **Because I was considered an unskilled worker, I was paid in silver instead of gold like the skilled workers.** * **I once said going to work at the canal was like going to a battlefield.** * **I saw many co-workers die from construction injuries and diseases like malaria and yellow fever.** |

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| **Vasco Nunez de Balboa** | |
|  | * **I was a Spanish conquistador.** * **I crossed the Central American isthmus that would later become Panama in 1513.** * **I helped establish a Spanish controlled city in present-day Panama.** * **I forced native people into slavery and made them mine gold for Spain.** * **The native people would not be independent until 1819.** |

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| **Constantine Parkinson** | |
|  | * **I started working on the Panama Canal at 15 years old.** * **Because I was considered an unskilled worker, I was paid in silver. Most brown workers were considered unskilled.** * **I was injured and lost my right leg; my left heel was crushed.** * **The Chief Engineer, George Goethals, told my grandmother there wasn’t any money to help injured workers.** |

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| **John Korp** | |
|  | * **I traveled from New Jersey to work on the canal.** * **I was considered a skilled worker so was paid in gold. Most white workers were considered skilled.** * **I was given the job of using dynamite to blast apart rocks and clear the land for the canal.** * **One day the dynamite exploded before I could leave the area. I died with twenty-six other workers in the explosion.** |

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| **Louise C. Bidwell** | |
| Icon  Description automatically generated | * **I lived in Washington, DC and saw an ad for nurses needed at the Panama Canal construction site.** * **I was promised good pay, clean living quarters, healthy food, and lots of sunshine. This was not true.** * **The hospital I worked in treated men for injuries, yellow fever, and malaria daily.** * **I went home after two years due to the difficult work.** |

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