

CANAL CHARACTER CARDS

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.

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.

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.

Engineer John F. Stevens



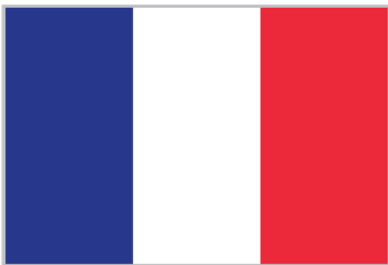
- I was the second engineer of the canal.
- I improved workers' happiness by introducing a food car with better food options.
- I gave workers vaccines to protect them from yellow fever.
- I didn't want special treatment and bunked near the workers.
- I resigned after 2 years due to the difficulty of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

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.

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.

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.

Dr. William Crawford Gorgas



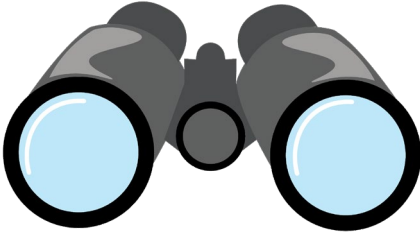
- I was the Chief Sanitary Officer for the canal construction zone.
- I directed swamps to be drained so there wouldn't be as many mosquitos, which spread malaria.
- I led plumbing installation, road paving, and construction of homes, schools, and churches.
- I introduced pesticides to cut down on insects.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Louise C. Bidwell



- 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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