Year 3 Comprehension activity: Week beginning 27th April 2020

Read through the information below carefully. If there are any words you don't recognise, see if you can work them out by reading around them and using the context to help.

UNIT 4

The World's Great Canals

Canals are man-made. They usually link two natural areas of water, like two seas. People have made canals for thousands of years so they could get from one place to another by water.

The Suez Canal

This canal was built in Egypt. It was opened in 1869. It connects the Red Sea with the Mediterranean Sea. The canal is 165 km long. Ships can now get from the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea and back again without having to go all the way around Africa.

The Panama Canal

The Panama Canal was built in Central America. It connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Pacific Ocean. It was opened in 1914.

The canal is 82 km long. Ships can now get from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean and back again without having to go all the way around South America.

Talk

Understanding the text

1 Where is the Suez Canal?
2 Where is the Panama Canal?
3 Which two seas does the Suez Canal link?
4 Which two oceans does the Panama Canal link?
5 What type of transport uses canals?

Looking at language

6 What do you understand by the term 'man-made'?
7 Explain the meaning of these words as they are used in the passage. Use a dictionary to help you.

a link **b** natural **c** connects

Exploring information writing

8 What is the main heading for the passage?
9 What do you think is the purpose of the writing in italics?
10 Why has the writer used sub-headings?
11 Why do you think the writer has included maps in the information?
12 The passage compares how long the canals are. What other feature of the canals does it compare?
13 Do canals make a journey shorter or longer? Why?

Taking it further

RB, Unit 4, Extension

14 If you were the captain of a large ship, what else would you like to know about the Suez Canal and the Panama Canal? Write a list of questions.
15 Where could you look for the answers? List as many different sources as you can.

Talk