

1961 THE CROSS FLORIDA BARGE CANAL

*You get to decide if Florida should build a man-made waterway across the state. It will connect the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. This canal would allow **barges** to move goods and people more quickly and safely.*

*Definition: A **barge** is a flat-bottomed boat that is used for moving cargo or passengers and is usually towed by another boat*

For several hundred years, people have hoped for a quicker, safer route between the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean. The question state legislators are considering is this: **Should Florida ask the federal government to build a barge canal across Florida?**

Go through the Prezzi and do the following activities. These will help you get a better idea of the project and decide if Florida's Legislature should ask the federal government to build this canal across the state. As you go through the Prezzi, keep an eye out for red shapes. When you see one, read that slide. Then stop and answer the questions below that match the shape...

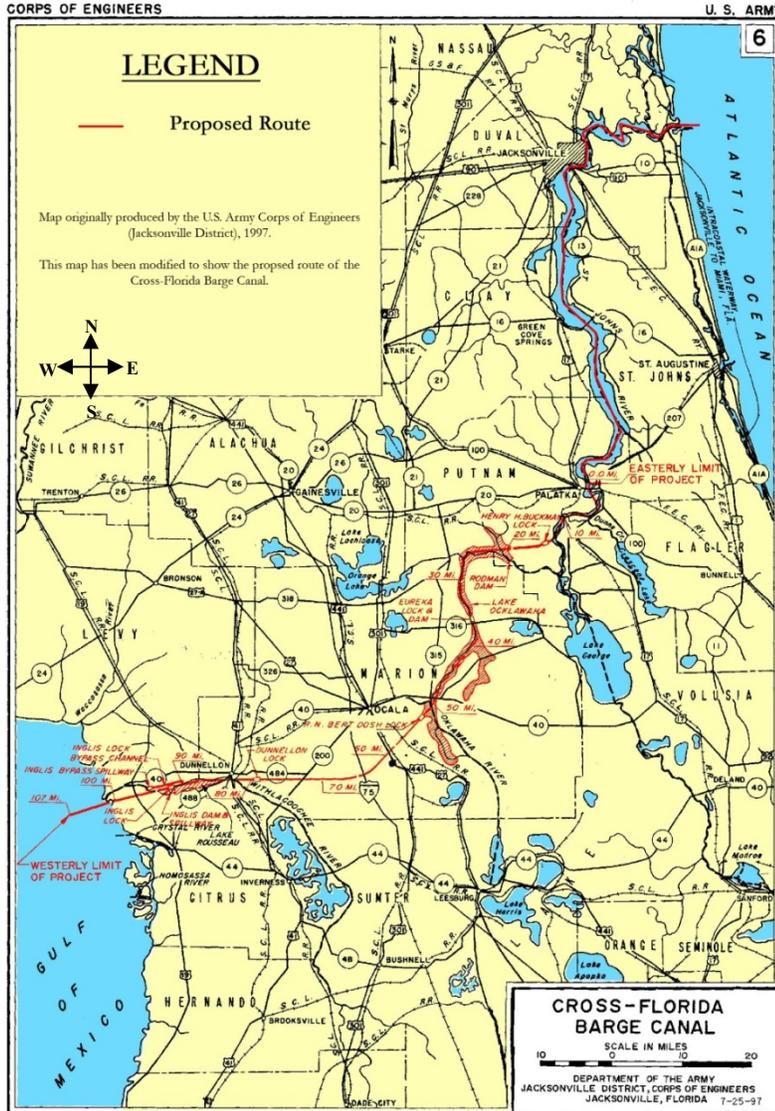


Now that you've learned the history of the barge canal...



1. Think about what you've already learned and what you see in the map above. Now, imagine it is 1961. You own a mining company that wants to ship a heavy load of limestone from Charleston, South Carolina (green star) to New Orleans, Louisiana (red star). **Why do you think it would be useful to have a barge canal that cuts across Florida? Please give at least TWO reasons and be as specific as possible.**

▲ *Let's take a look at the proposed route and follow the barge canal across the state!*



This map shows the proposed route for the Cross-Florida Barge Canal. Look carefully at the map. Try to notice the cities that will be connected by the canal. Also notice the state's natural features, some of which may be changed during the canal's construction.

This canal route is 171 miles long. It follows as many of the natural waterways as possible. By doing this, costs will be brought down and it will help conserve the environment. But, 32-miles of land would still need to be **dredged** to form the canal and two rivers would have to be **dammed**.

*Definition: To **dredge** is to move underwater dirt to create a path for boats to travel through waterways such as canals, bays, and rivers. Dredging is often done with heavy machines.*

*To **dam** is to block the flow of water in the river. Because of this, a lake forms on one side of the dam. A dam can affect the speed that the river flows at further upstream as well.*

1. If you were a ship entering the Barge Canal route from the Atlantic Ocean, **what is the first major city you would pass? Then, what river would you follow down to Palatka?**
2. There are several "locks" along the way. Locks allow barges to get past uneven ground levels during their trip. **What is the name of the last lock you would pass through if you were traveling from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico?**
3. Near the center of the map, find "Lake Ocklawaha" along the canal's route. This lake will be created during the construction of the canal by the Rodman Dam, which will dam the Ocklawaha River. **How do you think this dam might affect the rest of Ocklawaha River south of the barge canal?**

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

 *Why is the government in charge of building a canal?*

Let's take a look at some other public works projects, so you'll get a better idea of what they are...



Dams, power plants, parks, highways, hospitals, airports are often public works projects! But there are many more! Think of other examples you might have seen in your neighborhood, city or state.

1. Write down **THREE** more public works projects you can think of and where you might see an example of each.

1.

2.

3.

COMMITTEE MEETING ROUNDUP!



MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

Would the canal help our military, especially if the country had to go to war?

1. Look at the map at the map. Notice how close Cuba is to Florida. **What do you think about Rep. Pro's point after looking at the map?**
2. Which representative do you think makes a better argument? Please explain why in your own words.



COMMERCE & TRADE COMMITTEE:

Would the canal improve trade and help businesses in Florida and the country?

3. Which representative do you think makes a better argument? Please explain why in your own words.



AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

How will the canal affect Florida's natural resources and agriculture?

4. Which representative do you think makes a better argument? Please explain why in your own words.



TRANSPORTATION & TRAFFIC COMMITTEE:

Will the canal improve the state and nation's transportation system?

5. Look at the map on the right and compare it to the maps of Florida you've seen earlier. Notice the impact the Suez Canal has for ship travel. *FYI: During this time, roughly 58 ships used the canal each day and carried over 270 million tons through the Suez Canal per year.* **Do you think that the Secretary of State comparison is a good one? Why or why not?**
6. Which representative do you think makes a better argument? Please explain why in your own words.

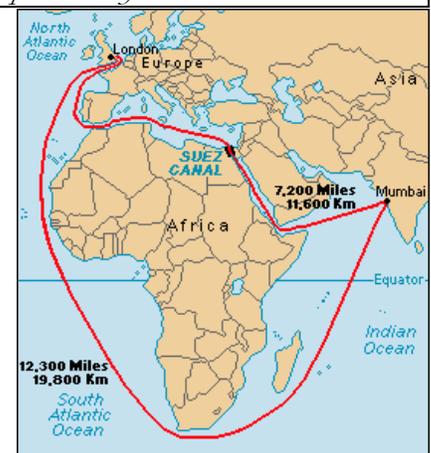


Image Source:
geography.bowstaffworks.com/africa/the-suez-canal1.htm

