Miles Gilmore

In the poem, "The Old Gumbie Cat" by T. S. Eliot, the cat, Jennyanydots' mood swings depending on the time of day. After all, she doesn't want her owners to know her true personality. At night, she organizes the house by keeping the critters busy. In the daytime, she sits lazily on any flat surface she can find.

During the day, the cat lies around, not doing much but resting. Just an ordinary cat, is probably what her owners think. "All day she sits upon the stair or on the steps or on the mat." (3) All Jennyanydots does during the day is relax without a care, but she's really just saving her energy.

The Gumbie Cat's nighttime behavior is completely different to her daily activity. Any bugs or rodents I the house who are noisy or out of line gets straightened out by Jennyanydots. "She is deeply concerned with the ways of the mice…she teaches them music, crocheting and tatting." (9-13). She goes to great lengths to create order in the house, even it is means turning cockroaches into boy scouts.

In conclusion the Gumbie Cat is very active during the night, but remains mostly idle during the day. Quite the nocturnal type, Jenyanydots rests during the day. This all is necessary to keep order in the household.

Solomon Hearn

According to the article, "Panama Canal", people were not content traveling all the way around South America to get to the opposite end of the United States. The alternative was to build a canal running through Panama, but that consisted of a lot of work. When "a French company already famous for building the Suez Canal in Egypt" (line 2) failed in the late 1880s, the Americans stepped up to the plate and attempted. They experienced and overcame many obstacles. A few were diseases, the Culabra Cut and the lock system.

During the process of making the Panama Canal, the diseases malaria and yellow fever killed thousands of people. In fact, so many workers were killed that three out of four of them died due to the diseases. They were having trouble completing their jobs, so people realized they needed to discover a cure. The yellow fever mosquitoes were easier to take care of. Because mosquitoes reproduce by laying eggs on water, "all standing water was eradicated and mosquito netting and runaway water were provided to workers." (6) This made sure no eggs could be laid or hatched. "Attacking malaria-carrying mosquitoes, however, was like going after a jungle of beasts". (7) These mosquitoes killed far more workers. To solve this problem, windows and doors were screened, as they were with yellow fever mosquitoes. People sprayed oil on the water, released minnows to eat the eggs,

drained swamps, and bred spiders, ants and lizards to eat them too. After taking care of diseases, worker dug the ditch of the Culabra Cut.

The Culabra Cut was the largest challenge. They had a huge area that needed to be dug out. "Dynamite was used to clear rock and loosed the rock-hard clay of the canal". (10) Trains hauled 10 million cubic yards of rock and soil (spoils) up from the cut in the ground. When the digging was done, the Culabra Cut looked like the Grand Canyon. "At places, its sides were as high as a 25 story building." (11) With the sides this tall, it was very obvious that there was a lot of spoil removed. That was the problem. They had so much excess spoil, so they needed a place to put it all. The many uses of the spoil included building several dams, a town and a military base.

The last problem was the system of locks. The Panama Canal was not a normal canal. A system of locks were formed for it. It would have been so much easier without the locks., but hey, you gotta to do, what you gotta do! The way the locks worked was that the ship would enter the lock when the gate opened. Next, a sluice is used to drain out the extra water. This is because the locks' water is at different levels. Lastly, the front gate opens and the ship is free to sail out.

In conclusion, workers labored hard to get the Panama Canal to the place it is now, and thanks to them, we use it a great deal. This is one of the projects that makes a huge difference in not only in our everyday lives, but the world's.