

EXPLORING COUNTRIES

Panama





Note to Librarians, Teachers, and Parents:

Blastoff! Readers are carefully developed by literacy experts and combine standards-based content with developmentally appropriate text.

Level 1 provides the most support through repetition of high-frequency words, light text, predictable sentence patterns, and strong visual support.

Level 2 offers early readers a bit more challenge through varied simple sentences, increased text load, and less repetition of high-frequency words.

Level 3 advances early-fluent readers toward fluency through increased text and concept load, less reliance on visuals, longer sentences, and more literary language.

Level 4 builds reading stamina by providing more text per page, increased use of punctuation, greater variation in sentence patterns, and increasingly challenging vocabulary.

Level 5 encourages children to move from "learning to read" to "reading to learn" by providing even more text, varied writing styles, and less familiar topics.

Whichever book is right for your reader, Blastoff! Readers are the perfect books to build confidence and encourage a love of reading that will last a lifetime!

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Where Is Panama?



Panama is the bridge of the Americas. The country is a narrow, S-shaped **isthmus** connecting North and South America. Costa Rica borders Panama's west and Colombia its east. Its northern border bends around the Caribbean Sea. The Pacific Ocean lines Panama's southern edge.

Did you know?

No one knows exactly what the word "Panama" means. One idea is that it means "abundance of fish."

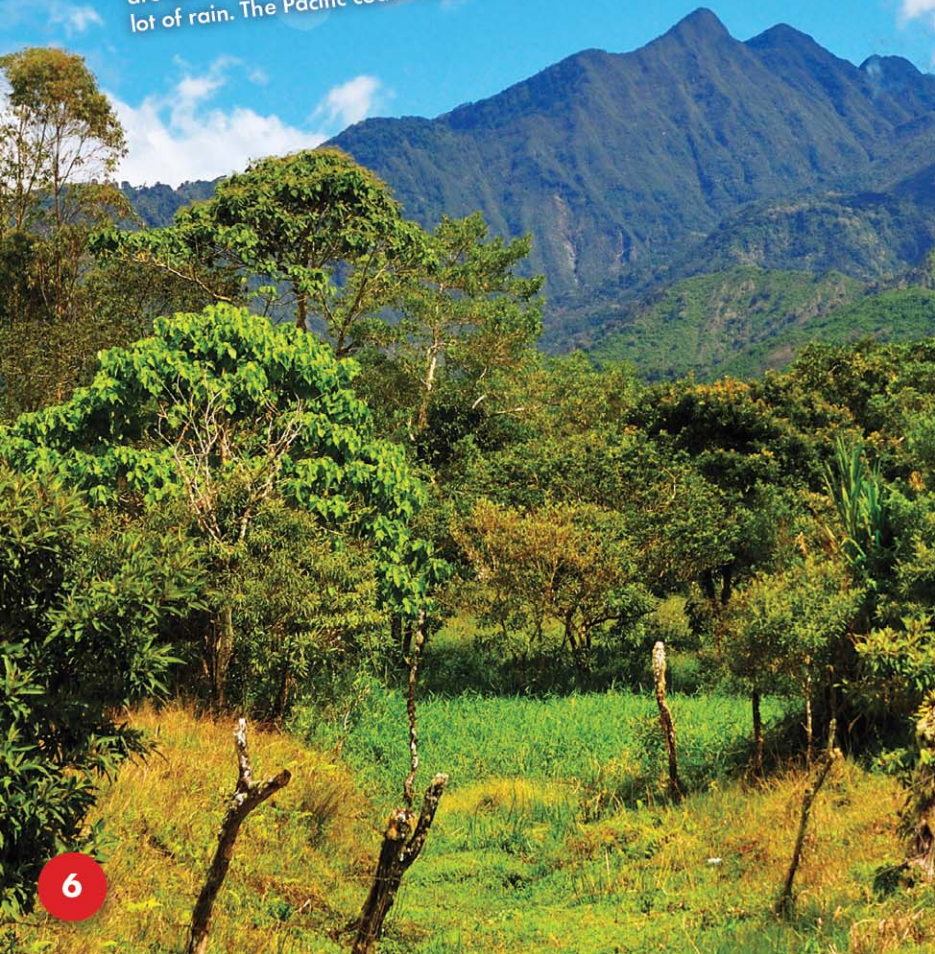



This small country covers just 29,120 square miles (75,420 square kilometers). It is slightly smaller than the U.S. state of Maine. Panama City is both the capital and largest city. It sits near the Panama **Canal**. This large waterway connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. It has brought travelers from around the world to settle in Panama.

Did you know?

Panama's climate differs depending on which side of the mountains you are on. The Caribbean coast gets a lot of rain. The Pacific coast is drier.

Tabasara Mountains





Even though it is small, Panama has a variety of landforms. Mountains form a line across most of the middle of Panama. The highest point, Volcán Barú, is in the Tabasara Mountains. Many short rivers run down the mountains to shores. **Rain forests** cover much of the land. **Plains** and lowlands form around the coasts. Ocean waves crash against Panama's islands and **peninsulas**.

Panama has a **tropical** climate. It has a rainy and a dry season. Temperatures are usually warm all year, at around 70 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit (21 to 32 degrees Celsius).



fun fact

One of Panama's many rain forests is within Panama City limits.