

Unlocking the Difference

When minerals were discovered and mined in the Upper Peninsula it was wonderful news for Michigan. The problem was how to get the ore to factories in far away cities. Shipping the ore by boat was the only answer – except there was no way to get over the one mile stretch of rapids in the St. Mary’s River, which connected Lake Huron and Lake Superior. The ore had to be unloaded from one boat and carried around the rapids on land to another boat. People began to understand the need for a canal and locks. It took two years to build and in 1855, the Soo Canal and Locks opened. Find out other information about the **Soo Canal and Locks** and compare it with another important canal, the **Panama Canal**. Complete the chart below with the information you find.

Name	Soo Canal and Locks	Panama Canal
Where is it located?		
How long is the Canal?		
How many boats go through it each year?		
How long did it take to build?		
Why was it built?		
When was it completed?		
What were some of the problems when it was being built?		
Another interesting fact I learned is....		
Another question I have about the canal is ...		