

General questions

1. What problems can you identify in this story? Are solutions presented?
2. In what way might this story be relevant in your community?

Further exploration

1. Despite the protests, surveys showed that a majority of Nicaraguans support the canal, which has been championed by the country's president, Daniel Ortega, as the country's ticket out of poverty. How should the potential economic benefit for the nation be weighed against the immediate economic toll that would be taken on those who might lose land?
2. The Nicaragua Canal Commission says that the long term environmental benefits will also outweigh the immediate environmental damage. What is the rationale supporting such an assertion and what are the reasons to question its validity?
3. Five years later, there has been no construction on the proposed mega canal. What accounts for the delay and is it unexpected? What are the prospects for this project going forward, with what implications overall, good or bad, for Nicaragua?

