**THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR**

1. During the Age of Exploration, Spain established a vast empire in North and South America. The Spanish ruled these lands for hundreds of years until the 1820s, when most of the colonies rebelled and gained their independence. But Cuba and Puerto Rico, two islands in the West Indies, remained under Spanish control. Then, in 1895, a revolution broke out in Cuba as people demanded freedom and self-government. Spanish authorities put thousands of Cubans in prison camps, where many died of hunger and disease. American newspapers, especially those owned by William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer, carried front page stories about the rebellion. In order to attract readers and sell more newspapers, articles were written which often exaggerated the facts and made the Spanish appear crueler than they really were. Such news reporting, aimed at increasing circulation, came to be known as the “yellow press.” It aroused the emotions of the American people and made them sympathetic to the Cuban cause.

**On the map:**

1. Label CUBA, PUERTO RICO, and the UNITED STATES
2. In box 1, print: 1895: The Cubans rebel against Spanish rule.
3. In box 2, print: The “yellow press” stirs American sympathizers for the Cuban people.
4. The rebels in Cuba continued their fights for independence. Meanwhile, the yellow press of Hearst and Pulitzer kept up a steady stream of sensational stories about the mistreatment of the Cuban people. They falsely reported that one-fourth of the Cuban people. They falsely reported that one-fourth of the Cuban population had died. The governor-general of Cuba was given the nickname “the butcher.” Public opinion in the United States began to favor sending military forces to the island. American businessmen feared for the investments they had made in sugar and tobacco plantations there. President William McKinley ordered the U.S. battleship *Maine* to Cuba to protect American lives and property. Three weeks after arriving in Havana harbor, an explosion ripped the ship apart and killed 260 men on board. Spanish and American investigators were unable to determine what caused the explosion. But the yellow press put the blame squarely on the Spanish. Hearst and Pulitzer insisted that the United States declare war. “Remember the Maine” became a popular slogan. President McKinley sent three notes to Spain demanding independence for Cuba, but the Spanish ignored his requests. On April 25, 1898, Congress declared war on Spain.

**On the map:**

1. In box 3, print President William McKinley orders the battleship *Maine* to Cuba.
2. Next to Havana, Cuba, print: An explosion destroys the *Maine*.
3. Inside of the United States, print: “Remember the *Maine*.”
4. In box 4, print:April 25, 1898: Congress declares war on Spain. The Spanish-American War begins.
5. The United States was unprepared for combat at the beginning of the Spanish-American War. There were few young and capable officers. Old rifles were handed out to thousands of inexperienced troops. The men were forced to eat canned food which they swore tasted like “dead meat.” Woolen uniforms were given to the soldiers, even though the war was being fought in a warm tropical climate. Despite these handicaps, the U.S. Army won an easy victory over the poorly led and sadly organized Spanish forces. The U.S. Navy also distinguished itself, mainly because it had a number of new steel ships. The Spanish fleet was still made up mostly of wooden ships.

The first major battle of the war took place in the Philippine Islands, which at that time belonged to Spain. Commodore George Dewey took six American ships from Hong Kong to Manila Bay. He destroyed the entire Spanish fleet of ten ships, without losing any of his own vessels or a single American life. Land troops arrived later and forced the city of Manila, the capital of the Philippines, to surrender.

In Cuba, U.S. Navy ships cornered a second Spanish fleet in the harbor at Santiago. Meanwhile, an American army landed to the east of the city and began closing in on the Spanish defenders. It was during this campaign that Theodore Roosevelt and the “Rough Riders” became national heroes. Roosevelt had resigned his position as Assistant Secretary of the Navy in order to go to Cuba. The Rough Riders captured San Juan Hill on the outskirts of Santiago. This highly publicized victory gave a big boost to the political career of Theodore Roosevelt.

The commander of the Spanish fleet at Santiago decided to sail out to sea. But as his ships left the harbor, each one was destroyed or forced out of action. Santiago then surrendered. A week later, Major General Nelson A. Miles led an invasion of Puerto Rico. Within a few days, the entire island was under American control.

The Spanish-American War came to an end on August 13, 1898, just four months after it had begun. The U.S. victory was so overwhelming that more American soldiers died of disease than were killed by Spanish bullets. The war cost fewer than 400 battle deaths compared with 4,600 lives lost from dysentery, typhoid, malaria, and yellow fewer.

**On the map:**

* 1. Trace arrow 1 from Hong Kong to the Philippine Islands. Print George Dewey next to it.
  2. Next to Manila, print: Dewey destroys Spain’s Pacific fleet.
  3. Trace arrow 2 to Santiago. Print U.S. Navy next to it.
  4. Next to Santiago, print Rough Riders capture San Juan Hill, Spanish fleet destroyed.
  5. Trace arrow 3 to Puerto Rico. Print Nelson A. Miles captures the Spanish island of Puerto Rico.

1. In the Treaty of Paris, which ended the Spanish-American War, Spain gave Cuba its freedom. Spain ceded the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and the island of Guam in the Pacific Ocean to the United States. The United States agreed to pay Spain $20 million for public property in the Philippine Islands.

The conflict with Spain, in the words of American diplomat John Hay, had been a “splendid little war.” But although it was short and one-sided, it had far-reaching consequences for the United States. Cuba, though independent, continued to depend up on the United States for economic aid responsible for governing millions of people in distant lands. The United States became much more involved in foreign affairs. The impressive victories of the American navy showed other countries that the United States was now a world power. Stronger battleships had to be built. The army needed to be reorganized to correct weaknesses that were revealed in the war. The Spanish-American War also showed the needed for a canal linking the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean, and led to the building of the Panama Canal.

**On the map:**

List the results of the Spanish-American War inside of box 5:

* 1. Spain gave Cuba its independence.
  2. Spain ceded Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines to the United States.
  3. The United States gave $20 million to Spain for the Philippines.
  4. The United States gave aid and protection to Cuba.
  5. The United States became more involved in world affairs.
  6. The army and navy were strengthened, and the U.S. became a military power.
  7. The Panama Canal was built.

**Questions**

Did the following events occur before, during, or after the Spanish-American War?

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ An explosion sank the battleship *Maine* in Havana harbor.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Major General Nelson A. Miles invaded Puerto Rico.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Spain ceded Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines to the United

States.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst used the yellow press

to boost sales of their newspapers.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_The Panama Canal was built.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_The United States became more involved in world affairs.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_An event occurred which boosted the political career of Theodore

Roosevelt.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Most of Spain’s colonies rebelled and gained their independence,

but Cuba and Puerto Rico remained under Spanish control.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_The United States was responsible for governing people in foreign

lands.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Commodore George Dewey destroyed the Spanish fleet in Manila

Bay.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Disease claimed the lives of 4,600 American soldiers.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_A revolution broke out in Cuba in 1895.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_The army and navy were strengthened, and the United States

became a military power.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_American businessmen began to worry about sugar and tobacco

investments they had made in Cuba.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_American land forces took control of Manila, the capital of the

Philippines.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Spain’s Atlantic fleet was destroyed as it tried to escape from

Santiago.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Spain gave Cuba its independence.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_The United States paid Spain $20 million for the Philippines.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_The Spanish ignored President William McKinley’s demand that

Cuba be given its independence.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Theodore Roosevelt and the Rough Riders captured San Juan Hill.
2. Separate investigations by Spanish and American authorities failed to discover who was responsible for the explosion of the Maine. Most Americans blamed Spain for the incident, but the Spanish denied any involvement. Some historians believe Cuban revels may have blown up the ship. Given the fact that the Cubans and Americans were good friends who both disliked the Spanish, why might Cuban rebels have destroyed the *Maine*?

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1. Some people have said the Spanish-American War would never have occurred if it had not been for the articles written by the yellow press. What role did the yellow press play in bringing about this conflict between Spain and the United States?

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