

Discover America

Course 10 - Teacher Guide



Table of **Contents**

3	Themes + Values
4	Learning Objectives
5	Key Terms
6	Introduction
7	Lesson
11	Who Am I?
12	Resources
13	Notes

1st Grade

Teacher Guide



Key Themes

- Bravery
- Perseverance
- Loyalty

Core Values

- Community
- Life
- Liberty

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe the life and military career of Teddy Roosevelt before he became President.
- Explain who the Rough Riders were.



America on the World Stage - 1st Grade

Key Terms

- 01 **Battle of Las Guasimas** – the first of two battles won by the Rough Riders against the Spanish in Cuba on June 24, 1898.
- 02 **Battle of San Juan Hill** – the second battle won by the Rough Riders against the Spanish in Cuba that began on July 1, 1898.
- 03 **cavalry** – soldiers who fought on horseback.
- 04 **Mount Rushmore** – a large sculpture carved into a granite mountain in South Dakota, featuring the 60-foot heads of four U.S. presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln.
- 05 **Rough Riders** – a group of hunters, cowboys, sheriffs, glee club singers, Native Americans, and athletic college buddies who volunteered to fight for the United States against the Spanish in Cuba.
- 06 **The Spanish-American War** – conflict fought in Cuba and the Philippines that began in May 1898 between Spain and the United States.
- 07 **Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt** – war hero who created the Rough Riders; later became the 26th President of the United States.

America on the World Stage - 1st Grade

Introduction

TELL Students

Still a young nation trying to get its footing in the world, the United States declared war against Spain in May of 1898. One of the heroes of that war was Teddy Roosevelt, who left his office job and volunteered in the **cavalry** (soldiers who fought on horseback) to help fight the war. Let's learn more about Roosevelt and his role in the Spanish-American War in this episode of Star Spangled Adventures!

WATCH

Star Spangled Adventures Episode:
America on the World Stage



Scan Me!

America on the World Stage - 1st Grade

Lesson

ASK Students

Have you ever had to give something away that you loved?

(allow students to respond)

TELL Students

Picture having everything you've ever desired – endless snacks, video games, and toys. Now, consider something so precious to you that you'd be willing to risk your safety for it. That is exactly what Theodore Roosevelt did.

Theodore Roosevelt, or Teddy, was born in 1858. Although many know him for his love of adventure, he actually faced a tough start. As a kid, he had asthma, which made it difficult to breathe. Rather than allowing it to hold him back, he chose to confront it head-on. To get better, Teddy worked hard. He exercised a lot and explored the outdoors. He was a real-life explorer, learning about nature and animals. He went to college to study nature.

ASK Students

How did Teddy Roosevelt overcome his medical challenges as a child?

(allow students to respond)

America on the World Stage - 1st Grade

Lesson

TELL Students

After getting married and starting a political career, Teddy faced a huge loss. Both his wife and mother died within hours of each other. This made him really sad, so he left everything behind and went West to start a new life.

In the American Frontier, Teddy became a cowboy, rancher, and even a sheriff! He faced blizzards and hunted bears, but his heart still longed for more. He missed the excitement of politics and helping people.

When trouble brewed between America and Spain, Teddy didn't sit back. He formed a group called the Rough Riders and led them to fight for Cuba's independence in **the Spanish-American War**.

ASK Students

What does it mean to volunteer?

(allow students to respond)



Teddy Roosevelt

America on the World Stage - 1st Grade

Lesson

TELL Students

The **Rough Riders** were the first volunteer group troops made up of hunters, cowboys, sheriffs, glee club singers, Native Americans, and athletic college buddies. They trained hard and were ready to fight for what they believed in.

The Rough Riders played a huge role in securing victories in two major battles against the Spanish in Cuba. Their first victory occurred at the **Battle of Las Guasimas** on June 24, 1898. Despite many casualties, the Rough Riders successfully fought off the Spanish forces. Following their success at Las Guasimas, the Rough Riders planned to capture Santiago, a key city in Cuba. The Spanish, knowing the Americans were coming, withdrew to defend the San Juan Heights.

Teddy Roosevelt led multiple charges up a section called Kettle Hill to reach the San Juan Heights. Despite facing enemy gunfire on foot, Teddy and his men showed great bravery as they charged the hill. This pivotal victory was later known as the **Battle of San Juan Hill**. This victory solidified Roosevelt's reputation as a war hero and marked a turning point in the Spanish-American War.

ASK Students

What marked the turning point in the Spanish-American War?

(allow students to respond)



Rough Riders

America on the World Stage - 1st Grade

Lesson

TELL Students

After the war, Teddy did not stop working hard as a leader. He became the President of the United States! He cared greatly about nature, supporting national parks and protecting wildlife. He also helped workers and made sure businesses played fair.

Even after his presidency, Teddy's courage inspired many. His face now graces **Mount Rushmore**, a large sculpture carved into a granite mountain in South Dakota, featuring the 60-foot heads of four U.S. presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln. It was completed in 1941 and symbolized America's birth, growth, development, and preservation.

Roosevelt's bravery and love for his country made him one of America's greatest heroes. His story shows us that with courage and determination, we can overcome any challenge. And his legacy reminds us to always fight for what we believe in.

ASK Students

What does Mount Rushmore symbolize or stand for?

(allow students to respond)

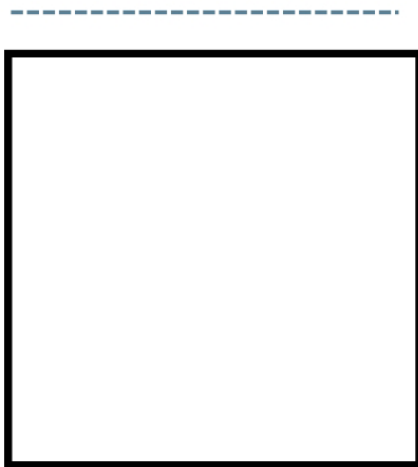
America on the World Stage

Who Am I?

Directions

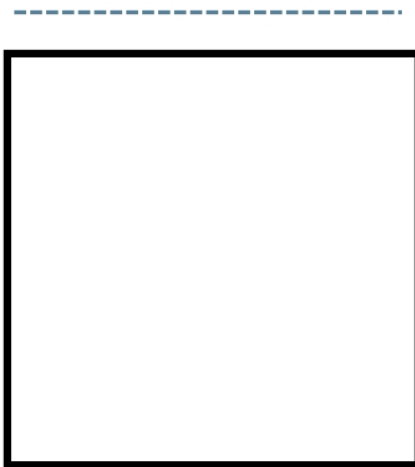
Read the statement and then write the name of the individual or monument that is described. Cut and glue the correct picture above the corresponding description.

I am



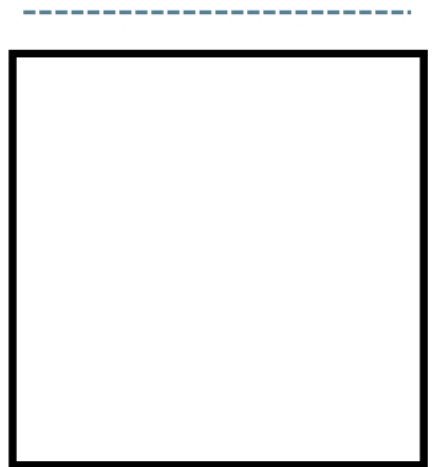
I am a war hero who created a group called the "Rough Riders." After my time in the military, I became President of the United States.

I am



I am a monument located in the Dakotas. I exist to honor remarkable American leaders.

I am



I am known as a Rough Rider. I helped fight for Cuba's independence from Spain and fought many battles with Roosevelt during the Spanish-American War.



America on the World Stage

Resource List

- 01 <https://millercenter.org/president/roosevelt/life-before-the-presidency>
- 02 <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Theodore-Roosevelt>
- 03 <https://www.nps.gov/thrb/learn/historyculture/tr-rr-spanamwar.htm>
- 04 <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/the-maine-explodes>
- 05 <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Theodore-Roosevelt/The-Square-Deal>
- 06 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/presidents/theodore-roosevelt/>
- 07 <https://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/Learn-About-TR/TR-Encyclopedia/War-and-Military-Affairs/The-Spanish-American-War>

