

Discover America

Course 10 - Teacher Guide



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2nd 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.
- Provide a concise overview of Teddy Roosevelt's involvement in the Spanish-American War.



America on the World Stage - 2nd Grade

Key Terms

- 01 **cavalry** – soldiers who fought on horseback.
- 02 **coal bunker** – a large container for storing coal.
- 03 **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.
- 04 **setback** – an obstacle or challenge that delays progress toward a goal.
- 05 **The Spanish-American War** – conflict fought in Cuba and the Philippines that began in May 1898 between Spain and the United States.
- 06 **Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt** – war hero who created the Rough Riders; later became the 26th President of the United States.
- 07 **USS Maine** – United States Navy battleship that sank at the harbor in Havana, Cuba.

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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!



Teddy Roosevelt

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Lesson

ASK Students

What is a setback?

(allow students to respond)

TELL Students

Struggling with a tough subject in school or facing an unexpected problem in your day can be discouraging. It is difficult when things do not go as planned and you feel frustrated. Moments like these are called setbacks. A **setback** is an obstacle or challenge that delays our progress toward a goal.

Theodore Roosevelt, or Teddy, faced many setbacks in his life. He 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. Teddy was determined to succeed and chose to find strength amidst obstacles.

ASK Students

Have you overcome a challenge or setback?

(allow students to respond)

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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.

ASK Students

How did Teddy Roosevelt handle great challenges in his life?

(allow students to respond)

WATCH

Learn More With Liberty Video:
Teddy Roosevelt



Scan Me!

America on the World Stage - 2nd Grade

Lesson

TELL Students

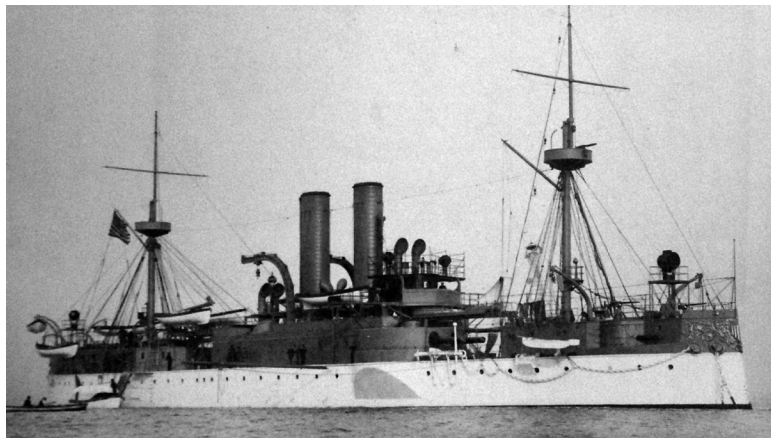
In the late 1800s, Cuba was struggling under Spanish control, fighting for its independence. To support the Cubans, the **USS Maine**, a battleship, was sent to Havana harbor, Cuba's capital. Tragically, less than a month later, on February 15, 1898, the ship exploded and sank, resulting in the loss of 268 sailors, most of its crew.

American newspapers quickly pointed fingers at Spain for the disaster, popularizing the rallying cry "Remember the Maine!" However, opinions about the cause of the explosion differed. While the U.S. Navy blamed a mine, some officers believed it was a fire in a **coal bunker** (a large container for storing coal) unrelated to Spain.

ASK Students

Who was responsible for sinking the USS Maine?

(allow students to respond)



USS Maine

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Lesson

TELL Students

The **Spanish-American War** began in May of 1898, and rather than stay in the comfort of his government office and protect the American community from his desk, Teddy Roosevelt led soldiers from the front lines to fight for liberty. In doing so, he formed the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry to help fight the war. Alongside his friend Leonard Wood, an American war hero, Teddy sifted through nearly 25,000 applications to create the group that came to be known as the Rough Riders. The **Rough Riders** were the first volunteer group of troops made up of hunters, cowboys, sheriffs, glee club singers, Native Americans, and athletic college buddies. Teddy and his Rough Riders' courage played a crucial role in America's victory against Spain, cementing Teddy's status as a war hero and earning him admiration for his leadership and bravery.

ASK Students

What does Teddy Roosevelt's leadership in the Spanish-American War teach us about courage and determination?

What does a volunteer cavalry mean?

Why did these people leave behind their jobs and families to volunteer?

(allow students to respond)

WATCH

Optional Course Videos:

Learn More With Liberty: The Rough Riders

Learn More With Liberty: Remember the Maine!

Scan Me!



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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 monument honoring great American leaders. Even today, Teddy remains a symbol of strength and bravery.

Teddy 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 Teddy Roosevelt's legacy teach us?

(allow students to respond)

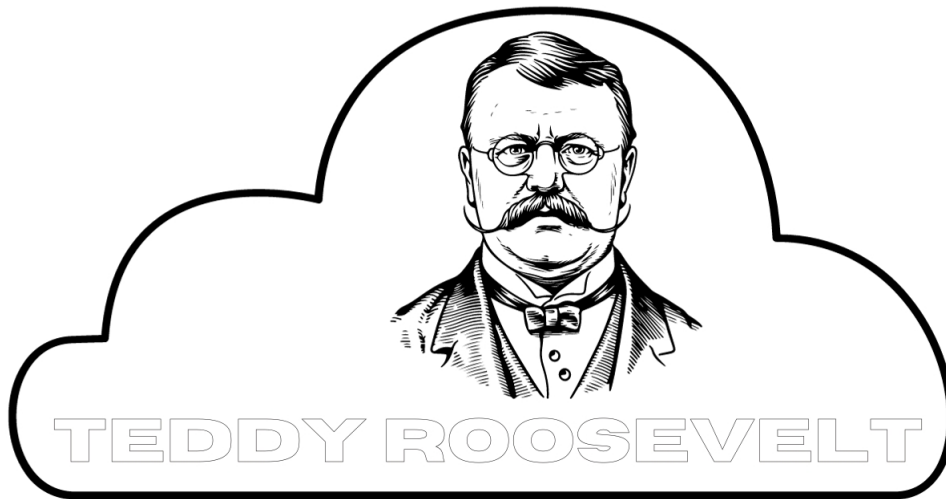


Mount Rushmore

America on the World Stage

Rainbow of Facts

Directions: Cut out the cloud. Color the picture of Teddy Roosevelt. Color every strip a different color using markers. On each of the six strips, write one fact about Roosevelt. Glue or tape the strips to the back of the cloud to create a rainbow of facts.



Six horizontal rectangular strips, intended for students to write facts about Teddy Roosevelt. The strips are currently blank and light gray.

America on the World Stage - 2nd Grade

Assessment

- 01 In what month and year did the United States declare war on Spain?
- a) May of 1998
 - b) March of 1898
 - c) May of 1898
 - d) March of 1998
- 02 What was the name of the war between Spain and the United States?
- a) The Spanish-American War
 - b) The Civil War
 - c) World War II
 - d) The Rough Riders War
- 03 What health condition did Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt have that impacted his childhood?
- a) Allergies
 - b) Heart Disease
 - c) Asthma
 - d) Diabetes
- 04 Which of the following was NOT an occupation Teddy Roosevelt had?
- a) President of the United States
 - b) Cowboy and rancher
 - c) Sheriff
 - d) Doctor
- 05 What battleship was sent to Havana harbor, Cuba's capital, and later exploded and sank?
- a) USS Maine
 - b) USS Michigan
 - c) USS Independence
 - d) USS America
- 06 What was the name of the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry led by Teddy Roosevelt that helped fight in the Spanish-American War?
- a) The Tough Riders
 - b) The Liberty Riders
 - c) The Rough Riders
 - d) The Roosevelt Riders

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Assessment Key

- 01 In what month and year did the United States declare war on Spain?
a) May of 1998
b) March of 1898
c) **May of 1898**
d) March of 1998
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d) USS America
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a) The Tough Riders
b) The Liberty Riders
c) **The Rough Riders**
d) The Roosevelt Riders

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>

