

Discover America

Course 10 - Teacher Guide



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3rd 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.
- Summarize the escalating tensions preceding the Spanish-American War.



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Key Terms

- 01 **cavalry** – soldiers who fought on horseback.
- 02 **coal bunker** – a large container for storing coal.
- 03 **Battle of Las Guasimas** – the first of two battles won by the Rough Riders against the Spanish in Cuba on June 24, 1898.
- 04 **Battle of San Juan Hill** – the second battle won by the Rough Riders against the Spanish in Cuba that began on July 1, 1898.
- 05 **Medal of Honor** – is the highest military decoration awarded by the U.S. government, given to members of the armed forces who go above and beyond the call of duty in combat.
- 06 **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.
- 07 **The Spanish-American War** – conflict fought in Cuba and the Philippines that began in May 1898 between Spain and the United States.
- 08 **Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt** – war hero who created the Rough Riders; later became the 26th President of the United States.
- 09 **USS Maine** – United States Navy battleship that sank at the harbor in Havana, Cuba.
- 10 **William McKinley** – the 25th President of the United States; in office at the start of the Spanish-American War.

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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

TELL Students

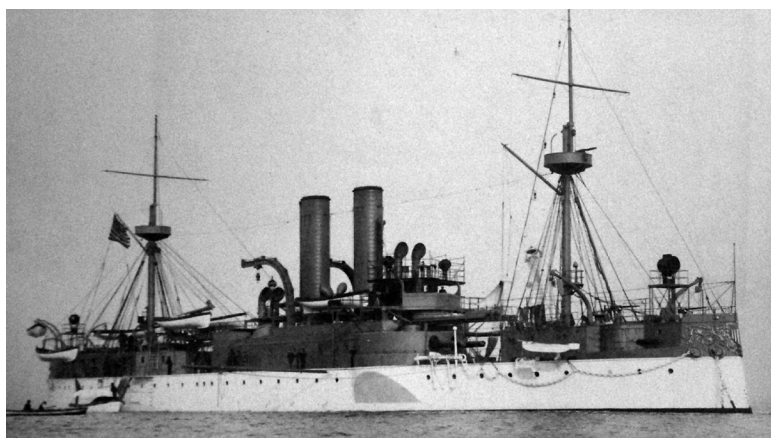
In the late 1800s, Cuba was struggling under Spanish control, fighting for its independence. To support the Cubans, the **USS Maine**, a battleship, was sent to Havana harbor, Cuba's capital. Tragically, less than a month later, on February 15, 1898, the ship exploded and sank, resulting in the loss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

During this time, **William McKinley** was the President of the United States. At first, he wanted to avoid a fight with Spain because the country was going through a tough time with its economy. But then, when the USS Maine sank and people blamed Spain, President McKinley felt pressure to do something.

So, on April 20, 1898, President McKinley signed an agreement saying Spain had to leave Cuba and allowed our military to help Cuba become independent. In Spain, selling Cuba, like they did with Florida before, made many people angry and the government worried the Spanish people would start a rebellion. Even though Spain knew they probably wouldn't win a war against the United States, they chose to fight instead of risking a rebellion at home.

As a result, on April 21, 1898, Spain cut off communications with the United States and officially declared war.

ASK Students

What events led up to Spain entering into war with the United States?

(allow students to respond)

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Lesson

TELL Students

The **Spanish-American War** began in May of 1898. Rather than stay in the comfort of his government office in the U.S. as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, **Teddy Roosevelt** resigned his job, joined the fight, and 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.

ASK Students

Who were the Rough Riders?

(allow students to respond)



Rough Riders

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Lesson

TELL Students

The **Rough Riders**, led by future president Theodore Roosevelt, were the first volunteer group of troops made up of hunters, cowboys, polo players, sheriffs, glee club singers, Native Americans, and athletic college friends. They played a huge role in securing victories in two major battles against the Spanish in Cuba.

Their first significant triumph 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. Roosevelt was even awarded the Medal of Honor in 2001, long after his death, for his bravery in The Battle of San Juan Hill, the only United States President to achieve this honor. The **Medal of Honor** is the highest military decoration awarded by the U.S. government, given to members of the armed forces who go above and beyond the call of duty in combat.

ASK Students

How did Roosevelt show courage and perseverance during the Spanish-American War?

(allow students to respond)

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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)

WATCH

Optional Course Videos:

Learn More With Liberty: The Rough Riders

Learn More With Liberty: Remember the Maine!

Scan Me!



America on the World Stage


Timeline

Feb. 1898

April 20, 1898

April 21, 1898

May 1898




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June 1898

July 1898

2001



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Using the blank timeline, fill in the following events in the order in which they occurred:

- President McKinley signed a resolution demanding that Spain leave Cuba.
- The Battle of San Juan Hill took place.
- The Battle of Las Guasimas took place.
- The United States declared war against Spain.
- Spain ended communications with the United States.
- Roosevelt was awarded the Medal of Honor, long after his death.
- Less than a month after anchoring in Cuba, there was an explosion and the USS Maine sank.

America on the World Stage

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- Less than a month after anchoring in Cuba, there was an explosion and the USS Maine sank.

America on the World Stage - 3rd 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 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
- 04 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
- 05 Who was the President of the United States that signed a resolution demanding that Spain withdraw from Cuba and authorized the use of military force to support Cuba?
- a) Theodore Roosevelt
 - b) George Washington
 - c) Leonard Wood
 - d) William McKinley
- 06 Which country won the Spanish-American War?
- a) The United States
 - b) Spain
 - c) France
 - d) Russia

America on the World Stage - 3rd Grade

Assessment Key

- 01 In what month and year did the United States declare war on Spain?
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c) **May of 1898**
d) March of 1998
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c) Leonard Wood
d) **William McKinley**
- 06 Which country won the Spanish-American War?
a) **The United States**
b) Spain
c) France
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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>

