

4th Grade

# Discover America

## Course 10 - Teacher Guide



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4th 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.
- Explain the concept of yellow journalism and its historical significance in media.



# America on the World Stage - 4th Grade

## Key Terms

- 01 **cavalry** – soldiers who fought on horseback.
- 02 **Battle of Las Guasimas** – the first of two battles won by the Rough Riders against the Spanish in Cuba on June 24, 1898.
- 03 **Battle of San Juan Hill** – the second battle won by the Rough Riders against the Spanish in Cuba that began on July 1, 1898.
- 04 **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.
- 05 **setback** – an obstacle or challenge that delays progress toward a goal.
- 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.
- 08 **USS Maine** – United States Navy battleship that sank at the harbor in Havana, Cuba.
- 09 **yellow journalism** – the use of sensational headlines to sell newspapers, often without regard for the truth.

# America on the World Stage - 4th 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!



Teddy Roosevelt

# America on the World Stage - 4th Grade

# Lesson

## **ASK** Students

What is a setback?

**(allow students to respond)**

## **TELL** Students

Think about a time where you may have struggled with a particular problem or subject in school. Imagine a moment where an unexpected problem came out of nowhere and left you feeling frustrated. Times like these can be discouraging. As hard as they may be, everyone deals with setbacks in life. A **setback** is an obstacle or challenge that delays our progress toward a goal. Although facing setbacks may be tough and unexpected, they can also make you stronger and more determined to succeed. Theodore Roosevelt is a great example of someone who found determination and success amidst obstacles.

**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. Instead of letting it hold him back, he decided to fight it. 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

Have you overcome a setback?

Can you give an example of someone you know who found success after a setback?

**(allow students to respond)**

# America on the World Stage - 4th 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**. 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 trained hard and were ready to fight for their country.

## ASK Students

What group did Teddy Roosevelt form that fought for Cuba's independence?

What does a volunteer cavalry mean?

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

**(allow students to respond)**

## WATCH

Learn More With Liberty Video:  
*Teddy Roosevelt*



Scan Me!

# America on the World Stage - 4th 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 a U.S. Navy board blamed a mine, some officers believed it was a fire in a coal bunker unrelated to Spain.

Further investigations suggested that the coal bunker fire was the likely cause. This incident became an early example of "**yellow journalism**," where sensational headlines were used to sell papers, often without regard for truth. Regardless of who was responsible, tensions between the United States and Spain escalated as a result of the tragedy.

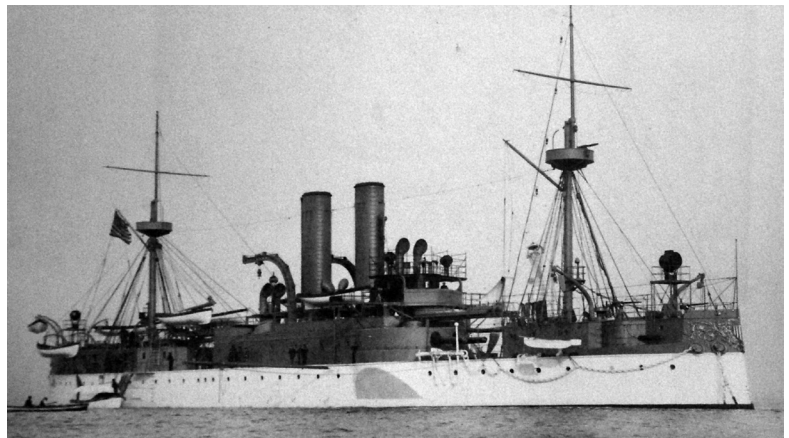
## ASK Students

What is yellow journalism?

Why is this bad?

How can this cause problems?

**(allow students to respond)**



USS Maine

# America on the World Stage - 4th Grade

# Lesson

## **TELL** Students

After officially starting the war, the United States Navy implemented a blockade around Cuba to prevent Spain from receiving supplies for its troops. They also learned about a fleet of Spanish ships stationed in Manila Bay, part of the Philippine Islands. The U.S. Navy successfully destroyed all the Spanish ships without suffering any losses, marking the beginning of the conflict.

Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders fearlessly entered into battles, risking their lives to fight for freedom. Their efforts were crucial in securing victories in two significant battles against the Spanish in Cuba.

The first of these triumphs occurred at the **Battle of Las Guasimas** on June 24, 1898. Despite numerous deaths among the Rough Riders, they managed to drive the Spanish forces away. Following this success, they began preparations to capture the important city of Santiago, a vital step in liberating Cuba from Spanish rule.

The Spanish, aware of the advancing American troops, retreated to defend the San Juan Heights, a strategic position overlooking the area.

## **ASK** Students

What was the significance of the Battle of Las Guasimas?

**(allow students to respond)**

# America on the World Stage - 4th Grade

# Lesson

## TELL Students

A week later, on July 1, 1898, American forces, significantly outnumbering the Spanish, courageously charged the hill in an attempt to overtake the defenders. The Spanish, entrenched on the hill, had a clear line of sight and inflicted heavy casualties on the advancing Americans. Despite the losses, American troops pressed on towards the summit. 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 remarkable bravery as they charged the hill. This pivotal victory was later known as the **Battle of San Juan Hill**.

## ASK Students

What was the significance of the Battle of San Juan Hill?

**(allow students to respond)**



Rough Riders

# America on the World Stage - 4th Grade

# Lesson

## TELL Students

Teddy and his Rough Riders' courage played a crucial role in America's victory, cementing Teddy's status as a war hero and earning him admiration for his leadership and bravery.

## ASK Students

In what ways did Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders advance toward victory in the Spanish-American War?

**(allow students to respond)**

## WATCH

### Optional Course Videos:

*Learn More With Liberty: The Rough Riders*

*Learn More With Liberty: Yellow Journalism*

Scan Me!



# America on the World Stage - 4th Grade

# Lesson

## **TELL** Students

After the war, Teddy did not stop. 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 revered icon of strength and courage.

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

# Teddy Roosevelt Biography

**Directions:** Complete the graphic organizer with information you have learned about Teddy Roosevelt.

My name is:	I was born on:

Adjectives to describe me:	My favorite hobbies include:
1 _____	_____
2 _____	_____
3 _____	_____
4 _____	_____
5 _____	_____

Four facts about me:

1 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

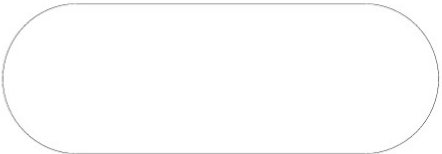
\_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I stand for:	I'm remembered for:
	_____
	_____
	_____
	_____
	_____

# America on the World Stage - 4th Grade

# Assessment

- 01 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
- 02 When did the United States declare war against Spain?
- a) April 1898
  - b) May 1898
  - c) June 1898
  - d) July 1898
- 03 Who left his office job and volunteered in the cavalry to help fight the war against Spain before becoming President of the United States?
- a) George Washington
  - b) Theodore Roosevelt
  - c) Andrew Jackson
  - d) Leonard Wood
- 04 What health condition did Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt have that impacted his childhood?
- a) Allergies
  - b) Heart Disease
  - c) Asthma
  - d) Diabetes
- 05 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

# America on the World Stage - 4th Grade

# Assessment

- 06 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
- 07 What is it called when sensational headlines are used to sell papers often without regard for truth?
- a) Blue journalism
  - b) Yellow journalism
  - c) White journalism
  - d) Sensational journalism
- 08 What was the rallying cry used by American newspapers after the USS Maine explosion?
- a) "To Cuba!"
  - b) "Fight for Freedom!"
  - c) "Remember the Maine!"
  - d) "For Liberty!"
- 09 What significant battle did the Rough Riders participate in on June 24, 1898?
- a) The Battle of Santiago
  - b) The Battle of Manila Bay
  - c) The Battle of Las Guasimas
  - d) The Battle of San Juan Hill
- 10 What significant battle did the Rough Riders participate in on July 1, 1898?
- a) The Battle of Santiago
  - b) The Battle of Manila Bay
  - c) The Battle of Las Guasimas
  - d) The Battle of San Juan Hill

# America on the World Stage - 4th Grade

# Assessment Key

- 01 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  
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- 02 When did the United States declare war against Spain?  
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b) **Theodore Roosevelt**  
c) Andrew Jackson  
d) Leonard Wood
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a) Allergies  
b) Heart Disease  
c) **Asthma**  
d) Diabetes
- 05 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

# America on the World Stage - 4th Grade

# Assessment Key

- 06 What battleship was sent to Havana harbor, Cuba's capital, and later exploded and sank?  
a) **USS Maine**  
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c) **The Battle of Las Guasimas**  
d) The Battle of San Juan Hill
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a) The Battle of Santiago  
b) The Battle of Manila Bay  
c) The Battle of Las Guasimas  
d) **The Battle of San Juan Hill**

# America on the World Stage - 4th Grade

## Student Text

*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.*

*Think about a time where you may have struggled with a particular problem or subject in school. Imagine a moment where an unexpected problem came out of nowhere and left you feeling frustrated. Times like these can be discouraging. As hard as they may be, everyone deals with setbacks in life. A setback is an obstacle or challenge that delays our progress toward a goal. Although facing setbacks may be tough and unexpected, they can also make you stronger and more determined to succeed. Theodore Roosevelt is a great example of someone who found determination and success amidst obstacles.*

*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. Instead of letting it hold him back, he decided to fight it. 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.*

*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.*

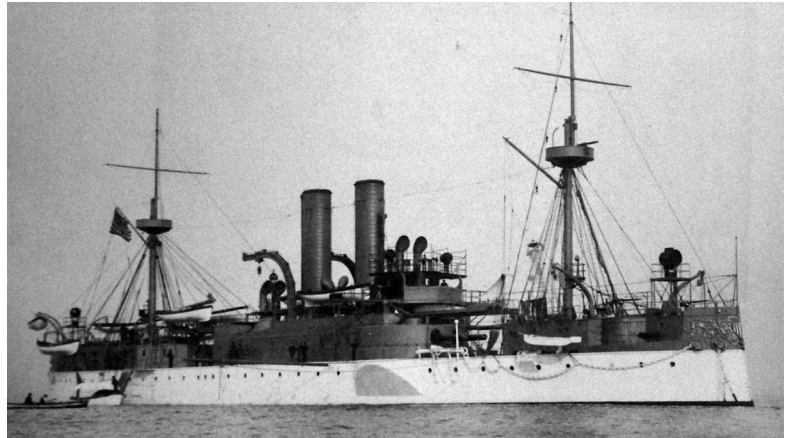


Teddy Roosevelt

# America on the World Stage - 4th Grade

## Student Text

*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. 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 trained hard and were ready to fight for their country.*



USS Maine

*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 a U.S. Navy board blamed a mine, some officers believed it was a fire in a coal bunker unrelated to Spain.*

*Further investigations suggested that the coal bunker fire was the likely cause. This incident became an early example of "yellow journalism," where sensational headlines were used to sell papers, often without regard for truth. Regardless of who was responsible, tensions between the United States and Spain escalated as a result of the tragedy.*

# America on the World Stage - 4th Grade

## Student Text

*After officially starting the war, the United States Navy implemented a blockade around Cuba to prevent Spain from receiving supplies for its troops. They also learned about a fleet of Spanish ships stationed in Manila Bay, part of the Philippine Islands. The U.S. Navy successfully destroyed all the Spanish ships without suffering any losses, marking the beginning of the conflict.*

*Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders fearlessly entered into battles, risking their lives to fight for freedom. Their efforts were crucial in securing victories in two significant battles against the Spanish in Cuba.*

*The first of these triumphs occurred at the Battle of Las Guasimas on June 24, 1898. Despite numerous deaths among the Rough Riders, they managed to drive the Spanish forces away. Following this success, they began preparations to capture the important city of Santiago, a vital step in liberating Cuba from Spanish rule.*

*The Spanish, aware of the advancing American troops, retreated to defend the San Juan Heights, a strategic position overlooking the area.*

*A week later, on July 1, 1898, American forces, significantly outnumbering the Spanish, courageously charged the hill in an attempt to overtake the defenders. The Spanish, entrenched on the hill, had a clear line of sight and inflicted heavy casualties on the advancing Americans. Despite the losses, American troops pressed on towards the summit. Teddy Roosevelt led multiple charges up a section called Kettle Hill to reach the San Juan Heights.*



Rough Riders

# America on the World Stage - 4th Grade

## Student Text

*Despite facing enemy gunfire on foot, Teddy and his men showed remarkable bravery as they charged the hill. This pivotal victory was later known as the Battle of San Juan Hill.*

*Teddy and his Rough Riders' courage played a crucial role in America's victory, cementing Teddy's status as a war hero and earning him admiration for his leadership and bravery.*

*After the war, Teddy did not stop. 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 revered icon of strength and courage.*

*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.*



Mount Rushmore

# 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>

