

Spanish American War Worksheet

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Part 1: Building a Foundation

What event directly led to the U.S. declaring war on Spain in 1898?

Hint: Think about the significant incident that escalated tensions.

- The sinking of the USS Maine
- The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand
- The signing of the Treaty of Paris
- The attack on Pearl Harbor

Which of the following were causes of the Spanish American War? (Select all that apply)

Hint: Consider the political and economic factors at play.

- Cuban struggle for independence
- American economic interests in Cuba
- The discovery of gold in California
- Yellow journalism

Describe the role of yellow journalism in influencing American public opinion before the Spanish American War.

Hint: Think about how sensationalist reporting affected perceptions.

Name two territories that the United States acquired as a result of the Spanish American War.

Hint: Think about the outcomes of the war and the Treaty of Paris.

1. First territory acquired:

2. Second territory acquired:

Which U.S. President was in office during the Spanish American War?

Hint: Consider the timeline of U.S. presidents.

- Theodore Roosevelt
- William McKinley
- Woodrow Wilson
- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Part 2: Application and Analysis

If the USS Maine had not exploded, which of the following might have been a likely outcome?

Hint: Consider alternative historical scenarios.

- The U.S. would have declared war on Spain sooner
- The U.S. might have sought a diplomatic resolution
- Spain would have declared war on the U.S.
- The U.S. would have annexed Cuba immediately

In what ways did the acquisition of new territories after the Spanish American War influence U.S. foreign policy? (Select all that apply)

Hint: Think about the shift in U.S. global stance.

- It led to increased isolationism
- It marked the beginning of American imperialism
- It encouraged the U.S. to build a stronger navy
- It resulted in the U.S. withdrawing from international affairs

How might the principles of the Platt Amendment have influenced U.S.-Cuban relations in the early 20th century?

Hint: Consider the implications of U.S. control over Cuba.

Which battle is most associated with Theodore Roosevelt and the Rough Riders?

Hint: Think about the key battles during the war.

- Battle of Manila Bay
- Battle of San Juan Hill
- Battle of Gettysburg
- Battle of Midway

Analyze the impact of the Spanish American War on the U.S. military. Which of the following were outcomes? (Select all that apply)

Hint: Consider changes in military strategy and structure.

- The U.S. military was reduced in size
- The U.S. established a stronger naval presence
- The U.S. military gained experience in overseas operations
- The U.S. military adopted new technologies

Part 3: Evaluation and Creation

Considering the outcomes of the Spanish American War, which of the following best describes its long-term impact on the U.S.?

Hint: Think about the shift in U.S. global status.

- It led to a decline in U.S. global influence
- It established the U.S. as a world power
- It resulted in economic recession

- It caused the U.S. to lose its territories

Evaluate the ethical implications of U.S. actions during and after the Spanish American War. Which of the following were controversial? (Select all that apply)

Hint: Consider the moral aspects of U.S. foreign policy.

- The use of yellow journalism
- The annexation of the Philippines
- The implementation of the Platt Amendment
- The signing of the Treaty of Paris

Imagine you are a journalist in 1898. Write a brief editorial either supporting or opposing the U.S. involvement in the Spanish American War, using evidence from the events and outcomes of the conflict.

Hint: Consider the arguments on both sides of the issue.