Spanish-American War: Yellow Journalism Activity

Near the end of the 19th Century, yellow journalism became a very common practice in the American press. Ultimately, yellow journalism would be one of the quintessential reasons why the US got involved in what eventually became known as the Spanish-American War.

William Randolph Hearst & Joseph Pulitzer (two of the leading newspaper publishers) really led the inflammatory rhetoric against the Spanish during this period. Imagine you are a modern day Hearst or Pulitzer & write an article in the yellow journalist style about a modern day issue (of your choice).

Criteria:
✓ Title of newspaper/magazine (doesn’t have to be real)
✓ Your Headline
✓ Picture or Political Cartoon (Hand drawn)
✓ Text of your article

Possible Topics:
★ U.S.S. Maine Explodes
★ Roosevelt and Rough Riders defeat Spanish at San Juan Hill

Keep in mind, you’re trying to embellish and use yellow journalism to SELL YOUR PAPER! Make the story factual but bend the truth, this is exactly what yellow journalism is all about!
THE FIGHT TO FREE CUBA

Cuba, an island south of Florida, had been trying for years to be free from Spain. Spain would not let Cuba go, so the Cubans rebelled and fought against the Spanish soldiers. By the end of 1896, Cuban rebels had taken over most of Cuba's countryside.

The Spanish government tried to keep control of Cuba. Many Cuban people were forced to move into concentration camps. Locked up in these camps, the prisoners could not help the Cuban rebels.

People were treated very badly in the camps. Of the hundreds of thousands who were imprisoned in the camps, thousands died. Some died because they got sick, and others starved to death. When Americans heard about what was happening, they felt sorry for the Cubans. They wanted the U.S. government to step in and help the Cuban people. President William McKinley tried to talk Spain into giving the Cuban people more control of Cuba's government. Spain, though, did not listen, and things got worse in Cuba.

Riots broke out in Havana, Cuba. President McKinley sent the U.S.S. Maine, a battleship, to protect Americans in Cuba. While docked in the harbor, the Maine suddenly exploded. The ship sank immediately, and more than 260 Americans were killed. Americans blamed the explosion on a Spanish bomb. The Spanish said the explosion must have been caused by a problem inside the ship. People still do not know what caused the explosion that sank the Maine.

Americans demanded that the United States go to war against Spain. The battle cry became "Remember the Maine!" This time, President McKinley tried to get the Spanish government to give Cuba independence. Spain said no, so President McKinley asked Congress to officially declare war on Spain.

Congress passed a joint resolution that said Cuba was free. The resolution stated that if the United States won the war, then it would not take Cuba for itself. Congress also said the United States would not try to control Cuba's government. The Spanish government cut off its relationship with the United States.

The Spanish-American War started in April 1898. By August, the war was over. The United States had won. The two countries signed the Treaty of Paris in December 1898. Spain was forced to give up Cuba. This was not the only result of the war. In addition, the United States gained control of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. Though the plan had been only to free Cuba, the United States now had an empire.
THE FIGHT TO FREE CUBA

Multiple Choice
Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

1. Cuba tried for years to get its freedom from ________.
   A. France
   B. Spain
   C. the United States
   D. Puerto Rico

2. The Spanish government forced Cubans to move ________.
   A. into concentration camps
   B. to Havana
   C. to Florida
   D. to the countryside

3. President McKinley sent the U.S.S. Maine to ________.
   A. bomb Havana
   B. rescue the Cubans
   C. protect Americans in Cuba
   D. all of the above

4. The war to free Cuba was called the ________.
   A. Civil War
   B. Seven Years War
   C. Cuban War
   D. Spanish-American War

5. After the war ended, the United States gained control of ________.
   A. Puerto Rico
   B. Guam
   C. the Philippines
   D. all of the above
THE FIGHT TO FREE CUBA

Crossword Puzzle
Write the best answer in each blank, and complete the crossword puzzle.

ACROSS
3. Americans demanded that the ________ ________ go to war against Spain.
6. By the end of 1896, Cuban ________ had taken over most of Cuba's countryside.
7. President McKinley tried to negotiate with ________.
9. ________ felt sorry for the Cuban people and wanted to help.
10. ________ ________, Guam, and the Philippines were controlled by the United States after the Spanish-American War.

DOWN
1. ________ passed a joint resolution that said Cuba was free.
2. The United States won the ________ against Spain.
4. Americans blamed the ________ aboard the U.S.S. Maine on a Spanish bomb.
5. Riots broke out in ________, Cuba.
8. When the ________ ________ suddenly exploded, more than 260 Americans were killed.
Map – Cuba in 1898
Use the map to answer the following questions. Write the answers in complete sentences.

1. About how far apart are Key West, Florida, and Havana, Cuba?

2. Which islands were ruled by Great Britain?

3. What are the names of the three bodies of water that surround Cuba?
THE FIGHT TO FREE CUBA

Extension Activities
Choose one of the following activities to complete. Write the answer in complete sentences.

1. Do you think the United States should have gotten involved in Cuba's fight against Spain? Why or why not?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. After the war, Spain gave the United States Puerto Rico and Guam. How did the United States gain control of the Philippines? Look on the Internet or at the library to find out.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

3. What is the current status of freedom in Cuba today? Look on the Internet or at the library to find out.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
QUIZ: THE FIGHT TO FREE CUBA

True/False

1. The United States ruled over Cuba starting in 1898.

2. The U.S.S. Maine was sent to protect Americans in Cuba.

3. By the end of 1896, Spanish soldiers had taken over most of Cuba's countryside.

4. The Spanish government forced many Cubans to move into concentration camps.

5. The war between the United States and Spain was called the Cuban War.

Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

6. The document that freed Cuba in 1898 was called the ________.
   A. Caribbean Islands Accord
   B. Treaty of Paris
   C. Havana Safe Haven Act
   D. Cuban Independence Agreement

7. Congress passed a joint resolution that said Cuba was now ________.
   A. part of the United States
   B. part of Spain
   C. free
   D. none of the above

Short Answer

Answer the following question in complete sentences.

8. What are two places that belonged to the United States after the Spanish-American War?

________________________________________

________________________________________


*Imperialism- Guided Notes*

Imperialism –

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

Late 19\textsuperscript{th} and Early 20\textsuperscript{th} Century–

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

\textbf{Why Expand into other Countries?}

1. 

   

   

   

   \textit{Example} - Alfred T. Mahan “The Influence of Sea Power Upon History”

2. \textit{Nationalism} -

   

   

   

3. \textit{Social Darwinism} -

   

   

   \textit{Example} - Rudyard Kipling - “White Man’s Burden”

\textbf{Why Should the US Not Expand Into Other Countries?}

\textit{Anti Imperialist}-

___________________________________________________________________

Why?-
US Expansion in the Pacific

Alaska-
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________

AKA: “Seward’s Folly”

Hawaii-
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________

SHADY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Spanish American War

• Cuban rebel against Spanish ____________________________ in ____________________________.

• US newspapers report exaggerated stories of Spanish atrocities “___________________________” – demands US intervention

• ____________________________ explodes of coast of ____________________________

• ____________________________ is blamed (Probably an ____________________________)

Spain & US declare ____________________________ in April 1898
  – “__________________________” – led by Col. Theodore Roosevelt (before he was ____________________________)
  – Victory over Spain ____________________________
  – “__________________________”
**Results of Spanish American War**

1. Cuba becomes a US protectorate – Cuban autonomy granted with strong US oversight

2. ____________________________, ____________________________, & the __________________________ become US territories

3. Strong opposition against annexing the Philippines from __________ ________________ & the Filipino people – harsh guerilla war last for five years – Philippines granted independence 1946

**Expanding US Foreign Policy**

- US sought to expand its role into __________________________ & __________________________
  - __________________________ - US policy to encourage equal trading relations between all nations in __________________________
  - __________________________ – world tour of America
    new modern & powerful navy to demonstrate __________________________

**Panama Canal**

- US wanted to __________________________

  WHY? __________________________

How did US Acquire it?

1. __________________________

2. __________________________
Three Different Diplomacies

1. “______________________________________________”- Theodore Roosevelt
   • “speak _____________________ and carry a big _________________________”
   • US would not hesitate to use _____________________________________ to protect its ______________________________
   • Roosevelt Corollary expanded on ___________________________________________
   • EUROPE ________________________________!!!!!!!!!!!!

2. “______________________________________________”- William Taft
   • Increase US financial investments to Latin American nations that cooperated with US interests

3. “______________________________________________”- Woodrow Wilson
   • US to promote ________________________________reforms by cooperating with democratic nations & not use ___________________________ or financial incentive
   • Still had to use military force in Haiti & Mexico in 1915 & 1916 respectively (Pancho Villa raids)