

## **Spanish American War**

- 1. What is yellow journalism?**
- 2. Who were the two newspaper publishers that used yellow journalism to attract readers?**
- 3. Describe the importance of the following:**
  - a. Enrique Dupuy de Lome's letter**
  - b. USS Maine**
  - c. Teller Amendment**
- 4. When did Congress declare war on Spain?**
- 5. Describe how the US gained control of the Philippines.**
- 6. Describe how prepared the US Army was for war in 1898.**
- 7. How did most men die in Cuba during the Spanish American War?**
- 8. Explain the importance of the Rough Riders and Theodore Roosevelt.**
- 9. What happened to all the Spanish ships in the Caribbean?**
- 10. What four countries/territories were now under US control after peace was established?**
- 11. What is the Anti-Imperialist League?**
- 12. Describe how the US government influenced Cuba for the next 50 years. (Dr. Walter Reed, Platt Amendment)**
- 13. Explain how the US influenced Puerto Rico.**
- 14. Explain how the US influenced the Philippines.**

# The Spanish-American War

## SECTION 2

### If YOU were there...

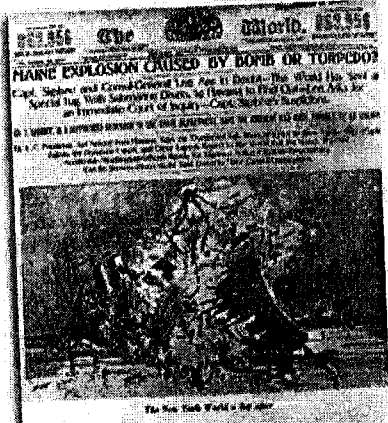
You live in New York City in 1898. Newspaper headlines are screaming about the start of war in Cuba. You hear that Theodore Roosevelt wants volunteers for a cavalry troop called the Rough Riders. You know how to ride a horse, and you've admired Roosevelt ever since he was New York's police commissioner. You know it will be dangerous, but it also sounds like a great adventure.

### Would you join the Rough Riders? Why?

**BUILDING BACKGROUND** While the United States, Japan, and several European powers were gaining colonies, Spain's empire was declining. By the late 1800s Spain's once-extensive American empire was reduced to two island colonies—Cuba and Puerto Rico. Eager for independence, some Cubans revolted against Spanish rule. Many Americans sympathized with Cuba's fight for independence.

### War with Spain

You read earlier that newspaper publishers Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst were in a fierce competition for readers. In the late 1890s their newspapers published stories from Cuba, where Cuban rebels were fighting for independence from Spain. To attract readers, Pulitzer and Hearst printed sensational, often exaggerated news stories. This technique is called **yellow journalism**. Vivid stories about Spanish brutality in Cuba convinced many Americans that the U.S. military should support the Cuban rebels.



Newspapers such as this one encouraged Americans to seek war with Spain.

### What You Will Learn...

#### Main Ideas

1. In 1898 the United States went to war with Spain in the Spanish-American War.
2. The United States gained territories in the Caribbean and Pacific.

#### The Big Idea

The United States expanded into new parts of the world as a result of the Spanish-American War.

#### Key Terms and People

yellow journalism, p. 697

Teller Amendment, p. 698

Emilio Aguinaldo, p. 699

Anti-Imperialist League, p. 700

Platt Amendment, p. 701

#### hmhsocialstudies.com TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the results of the Spanish-American War.

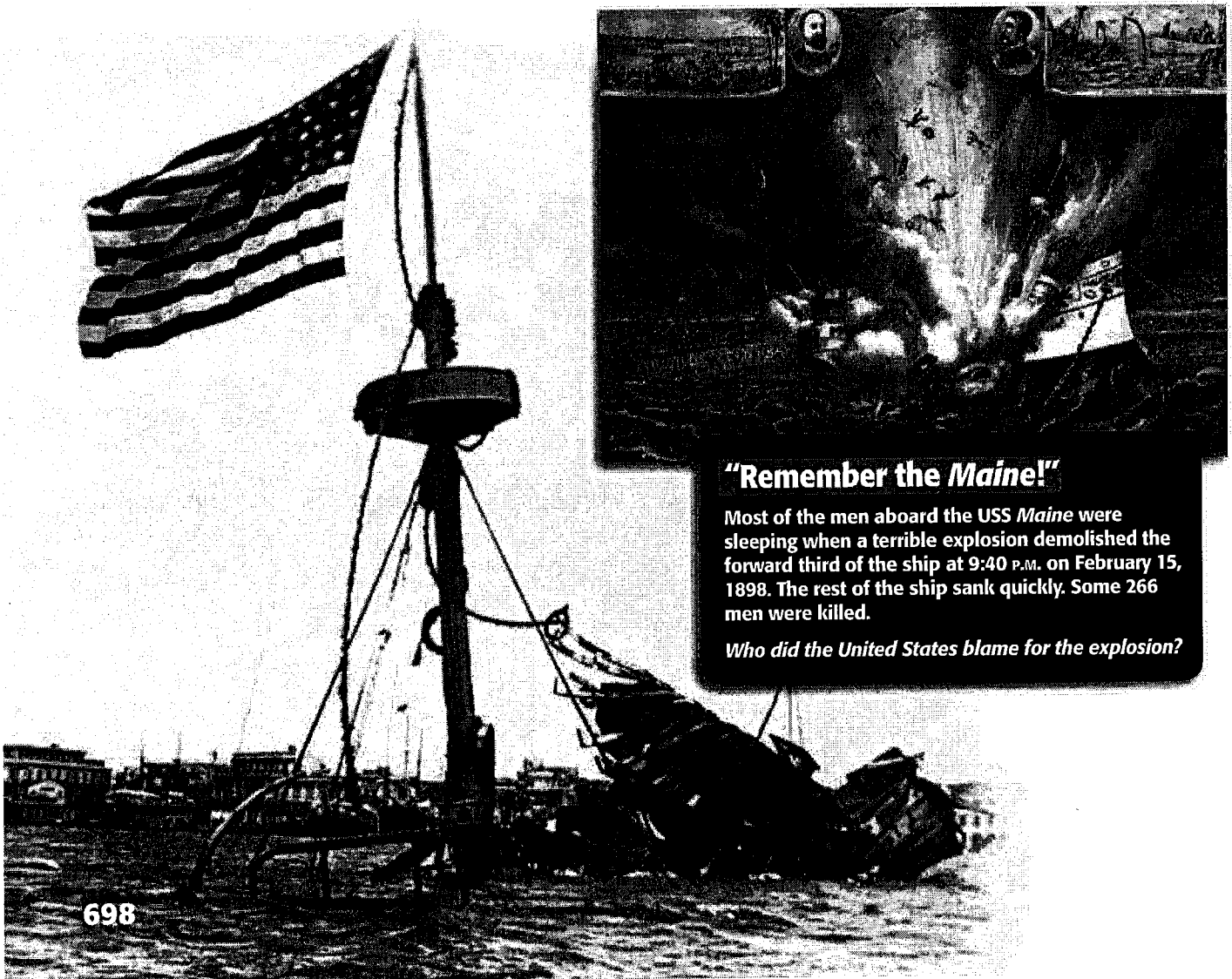
Despite growing support for military action in Cuba, President Grover Cleveland was opposed to U.S. involvement. In 1896 William McKinley, a supporter of Cuban independence, was elected president. Several events soon led to war.

In February 1898 Hearst's newspaper published a letter written by the Spanish minister to the United States, Enrique Dupuy de Lôme. In it, de Lôme called McKinley "weak and a bidder for the admiration of the crowd." Many Americans were outraged.

In January 1898, even before de Lôme's letter became public, the United States sent the battleship USS *Maine* to Havana Harbor. The *Maine's* mission was to protect U.S. citizens and economic interests in Cuba. On February 15 the *Maine* exploded and

sank, with a loss of 266 men. Although the cause of the explosion was unclear, the American press immediately blamed Spain. "Remember the *Maine*!" became a rallying cry for angry Americans.

President McKinley requested \$50 million to prepare for war. Congress approved the money. Although Cuba was not a U.S. territory, Congress issued a resolution on April 20 declaring Cuba independent and demanding that Spain leave the island within three days. Attached to the resolution was the **Teller Amendment**, which stated that the United States had no interest in taking control of Cuba. In response to the resolution, Spain declared war on the United States. The next day, Congress passed, and McKinley signed, a declaration of war against Spain.



### **"Remember the *Maine*!"**

Most of the men aboard the USS *Maine* were sleeping when a terrible explosion demolished the forward third of the ship at 9:40 P.M. on February 15, 1898. The rest of the ship sank quickly. Some 266 men were killed.

*Who did the United States blame for the explosion?*

## War in the Philippines

While attention was focused on Cuba, the U.S. Navy won a quick victory nearly half-way around the world in the Philippines, a Spanish colony in the Pacific. Filipinos, like Cubans, were rebelling against Spanish rule.

As soon as the Spanish-American War began, American commodore George Dewey raced to the Philippines with four large warships and two small gunboats. On May 1, ignoring reports that mines beneath the water barred his way, he sailed into Manila Bay and destroyed the Spanish Pacific fleet stationed there. Dewey's forces sank or captured 10 ships. The Spanish lost 381 lives, but none of Dewey's men were killed.

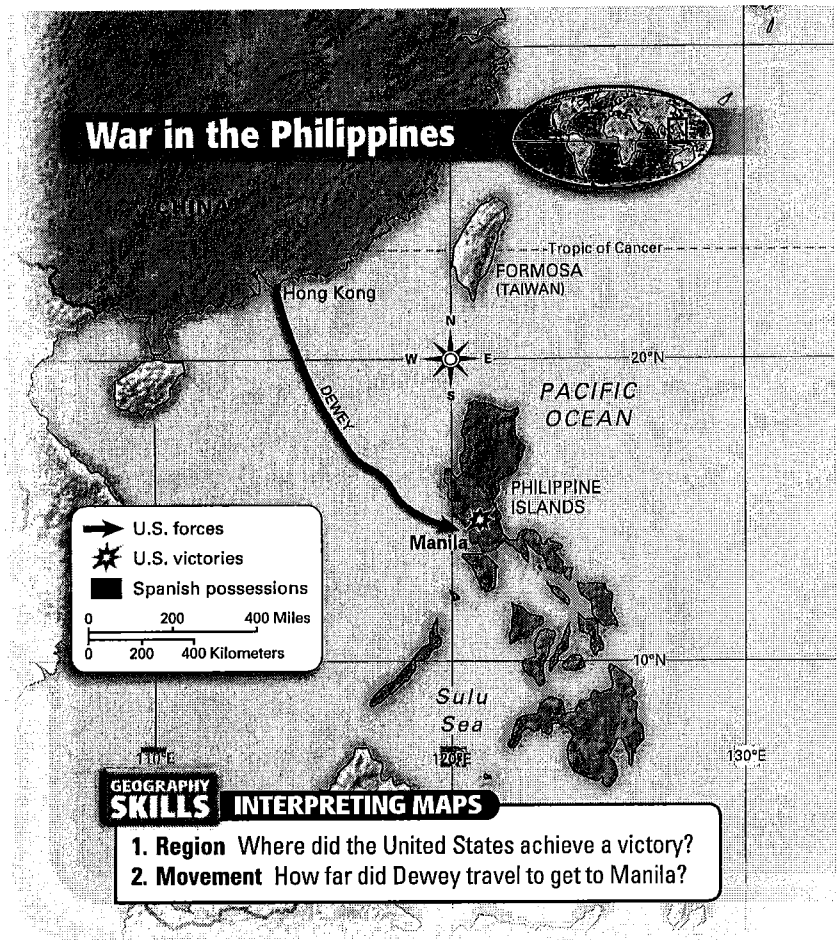
Dewey had defeated the Spanish, but he did not have enough troops to occupy and secure the Philippines. Troops eventually arrived, and on August 13, U.S. troops and Filipino rebels led by **Emilio Aguinaldo** (ah-gee-NAHL-doh) took control of the Philippine capital, Manila.

## War in the Caribbean

In contrast to the navy, the U.S. Army was unprepared for war. At the start of the conflict, the entire U.S. Army had only 28,000 soldiers. New volunteers quickly raised that figure to more than 280,000. The army did not have enough rifles or bullets for these soldiers. It did not even have appropriate clothing for the troops. Many soldiers received warm woolen uniforms to wear in Cuba's tropical heat.

The soldiers faced harsh living conditions in Cuba. They ate canned meat that one general called "embalmed beef," and many were stricken with yellow fever and other deadly diseases. More than 2,000 Americans died from diseases they contracted in Cuba. Fewer than 400 were killed in battle.

The most colorful group of soldiers was the Rough Riders. Second in command of this group was Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt had organized the



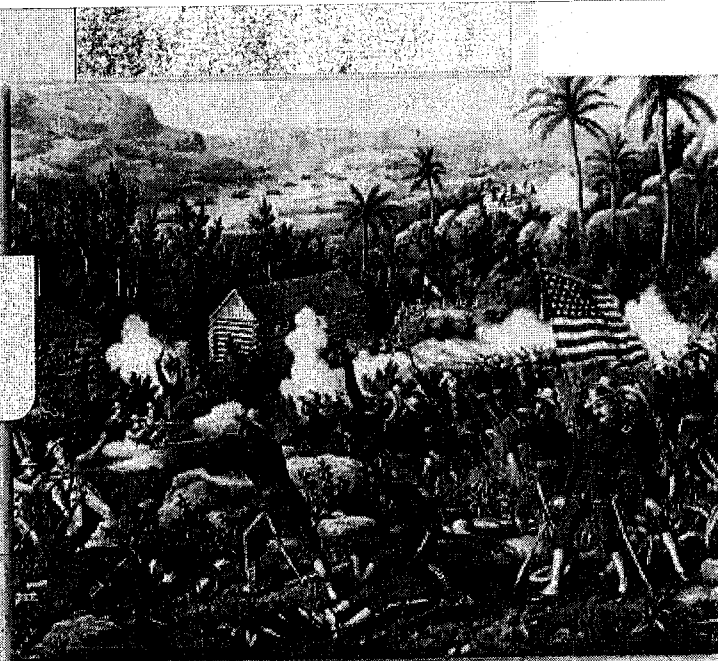
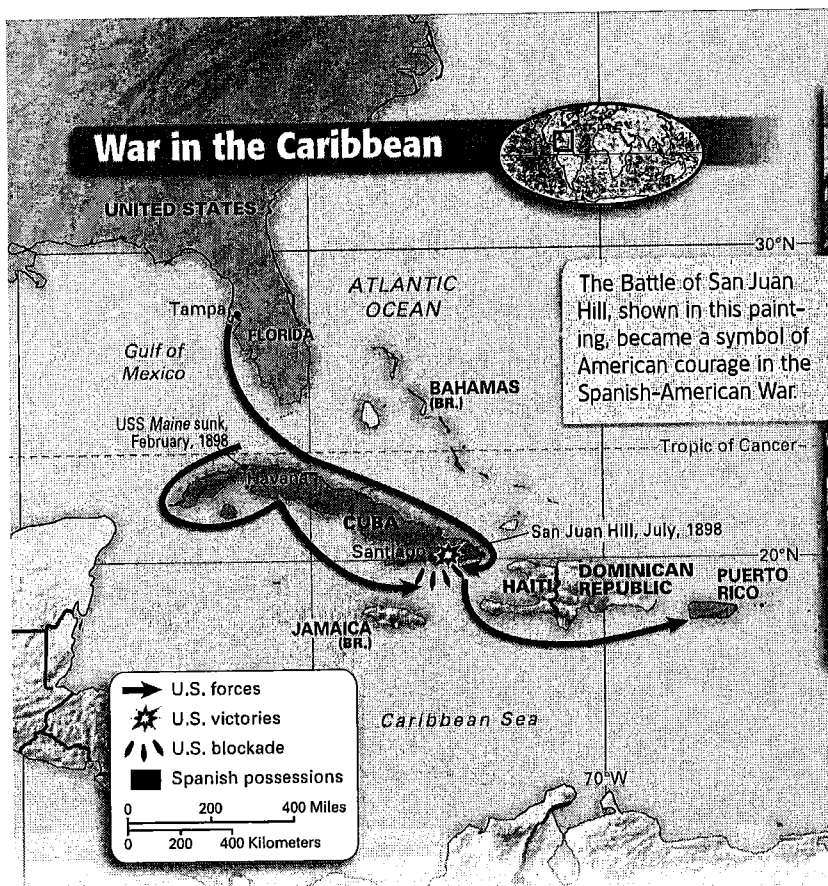
Rough Riders to fight in Cuba. Volunteers included Native Americans, college athletes, cowboys, miners, and ranchers. Newspaper stories of their heroism earned the Rough Riders Americans' admiration. Four privates of the African American 10th Cavalry, who served with the Rough Riders, received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Landing on June 22, 1898, the U.S. troops captured the hills around the main Spanish forces at Santiago. At the village of El Caney on July 1, some 7,000 U.S. soldiers, aided by Cuban rebels, overwhelmed about 600 Spanish defenders.

The main U.S. force then attacked and captured San Juan Hill. The Rough Riders and the African American 9th and 10th cavalries captured nearby Kettle Hill. The many accounts of the battle became popular with the American public back home. A journalist on the scene described the soldiers' charge:

### FOCUS ON READING

How might accounts of the war written by these various soldiers have been different?



**GEOGRAPHY SKILLS** **INTERPRETING MAPS**

- 1. Location** About how far is Havana from Tampa?
- 2. Place** When was the victory at San Juan Hill?

“It was a miracle of self-sacrifice, a triumph of bulldog courage . . . The fire of the Spanish riflemen . . . doubled and trebled [tripled] in fierceness, the crests of the hills crackled and burst in amazed roars and rippled with waves of tiny flame. But the blue line [of United States soldiers] crept steadily up and on.”

—Richard Harding Davis, quoted in *The American Reader*, edited by Paul M. Angle

On July 3 the commander of the Spanish fleet decided to try breaking through the U.S. blockade. Though every Spanish ship was destroyed in the battle, American forces suffered only two casualties. Santiago surrendered two weeks later. President McKinley began peace negotiations with Spain, which was assured of defeat. A few days later, U.S. troops invaded Spanish-held Puerto Rico, which surrendered with little resistance. Spain signed a cease-fire agreement on August 12, 1898.

**READING CHECK** **Comparing** How was fighting in the Pacific and the Caribbean similar?

## United States Gains Territories

The peace treaty placed Cuba, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines under U.S. control. In reaction, some Americans formed the **Anti-Imperialist League**, a group that opposed the treaty and the creation of an American colonial empire. They argued that the treaty threatened democracy because it denied self-government to the people living in the newly acquired territories. The Senate approved the peace treaty by a vote of 57 to 27—just one vote more than the two-thirds majority needed to ratify treaties.

### Cuba

The Teller Amendment had declared that the United States would not annex Cuba. However, McKinley wanted to create stability and increase U.S. economic activity there, so he set up a military government. He appointed Leonard Wood, who had commanded the Rough Riders during the war, as governor.

Wood quickly began building schools and a sanitation system.

Even with the new sanitation system, disease remained a major problem. Dr. Walter Reed, head of the army's Yellow Fever Commission, was sent to Cuba in 1900 to help fight the disease. He and his volunteers conducted experiments, including allowing themselves to be bitten by infected insects. They soon proved that yellow fever was transmitted by mosquitoes. Getting rid of the standing water where mosquitoes lived helped health officials to control the disease.

Governor Wood also oversaw the writing of a Cuban constitution. The document included the **Platt Amendment**, which limited Cuba's right to make treaties and allowed the United States to intervene in Cuban affairs. It also required Cuba to sell or lease land to the United States. Cuban

leaders compared the Platt Amendment to "handing over the keys to our house so that they [the Americans] can enter it at any time, whenever the desire seizes them." The Cubans reluctantly accepted the amendment, and U.S. troops withdrew. The amendment remained in force until 1934, and the U.S. government stayed actively involved in Cuban affairs until the late 1950s.

### Puerto Rico

Like Cubans, Puerto Ricans had hoped for independence after the war. Instead, the U.S. government made the island a territory. On April 12, 1900, the Foraker Act established a civil government in Puerto Rico. It was headed by a governor and included a two-house legislature.

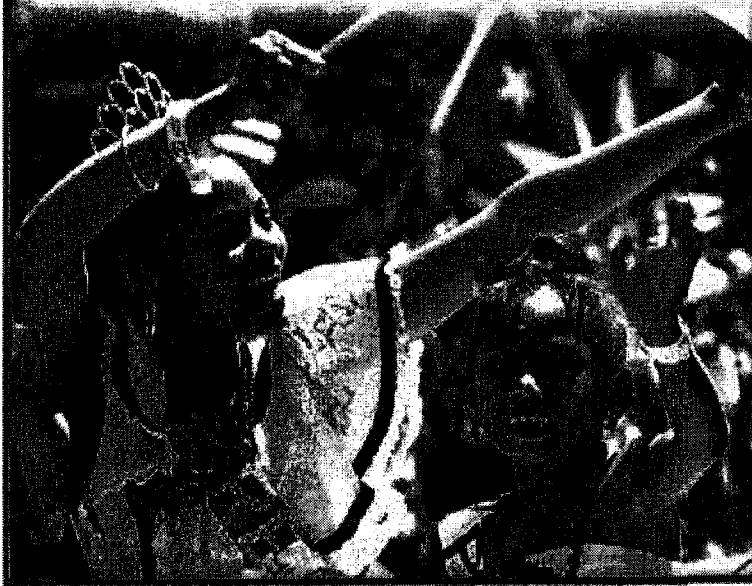
A debate over the new territory soon arose. People who lived in Puerto Rico were

## LINKING TO TODAY

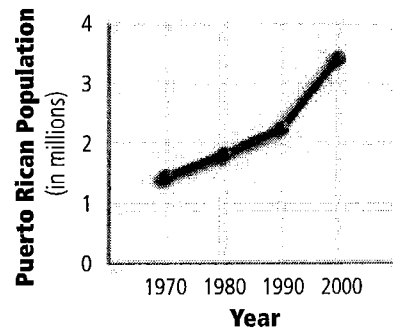
### Puerto Ricans Today

Today more than 4 million Puerto Ricans live on the mainland United States. This is the second-largest Hispanic population in the country, behind people of Mexican descent. Puerto Ricans live throughout the United States, but about one-third live in New York State.

Puerto Rican culture is very strong in New York—the National Puerto Rican Day Parade in New York City is one of the largest parades for any ethnic group in the city.



**Puerto Ricans in the Mainland United States**



ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING INFORMATION

How are the people in the picture showing support for Puerto Rican culture?

considered citizens of the island but not of the United States. In 1917 the Jones Act gave Puerto Ricans U.S. citizenship and made both houses of the legislature elective. However, another 30 years passed before Puerto Ricans could elect their own governor. Today the island has its own constitution and elected officials but remains associated with the United States as what is known as a commonwealth.

### The Philippines

Spain had surrendered the Philippines in return for a \$20 million payment from the United States. Many Americans agreed with President McKinley, who said that the United States would benefit from the islands' naval and commercial value and that annexing the islands would keep Europeans from seizing them.

Filipino rebels, however, had expected to gain independence after the war. They had

helped U.S. forces to capture Manila. When the United States decided instead to keep the islands, rebels led by Emilio Aguinaldo started a guerrilla war against the American forces. More than 4,200 U.S. soldiers and hundreds of thousands of Filipinos died before the conflict ended in 1902.

That same year, Congress passed the Philippine Government Act. It provided that an appointed governor and a two-house legislature would rule the Philippines. In 1946 the United States granted full independence to the Philippines.

**READING CHECK** Summarizing What areas did the United States control as a result of the war?

**SUMMARY AND PREVIEW** The United States fought a war with Spain and gained new territories in the Pacific and Caribbean regions. In the next section you will learn about U.S. interests in Latin America.

## Section 2 Assessment

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ONLINE QUIZ

### Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

1. **a. Recall** What was the cause of the conflict between Cuba and Spain?  
**b. Analyze** How did **yellow journalism** affect public support for U.S. military action in Cuba?  
**c. Elaborate** Why do you think the United States was so successful in defeating Spain? Explain your answer.
2. **a. Identify** What territories did the United States gain as a result of the war?  
**b. Analyze** Why did some Americans oppose the annexation of the Philippines?

### Critical Thinking

3. **Categorizing** Review your notes on the results of the Spanish-American War. Then copy the graphic organizer to the right. Use your notes to identify arguments for and against taking control of foreign territories.

Arguments for Imperialism		Arguments against Imperialism
	vs.	

### FOCUS ON WRITING

4. **Identifying Pros and Cons of the Spanish-American War** As you read this section, add to your pros and cons list by identifying American losses and gains as a result of the Spanish-American War. What were the costs in human lives? What were the gains in territory? Can you identify any other losses and gains? For example, how did the United States handle the issues of self-rule involved in the war?

## BIOGRAPHY

# Theodore Roosevelt

## What would you do to reform your country and make it stronger?

**When did he live?** 1858–1919

**Where did he live?** Theodore Roosevelt was born into a wealthy family in New York City. He spent two years on a ranch in the Dakota Territory, where he became an avid hunter and conservationist. His political career then took him to Albany, New York, where he served as state governor, and Washington, D.C., where he served as vice president and president.

**What did he do?** Roosevelt became a national hero while leading the Rough Riders in the Spanish-American War. After serving less than a year as vice president, the 42-year-old Roosevelt became the youngest president in U.S.

history when President William McKinley was killed in 1901. As president, Roosevelt fought for progressive reforms and set aside millions of acres as national parks and forests. Roosevelt's aggressive foreign policy expanded American power in the world.

**Why is he so important?** "I believe in a strong executive," Roosevelt once declared. "While president, I have been president, emphatically [forcefully]; I have used every ounce of power there was in the office." As this quote suggests, Roosevelt was a strong leader who set a precedent for a more active and powerful presidency.

**Drawing Conclusions** What characteristics made Theodore Roosevelt a successful leader?

**President Theodore Roosevelt and the Rough Riders**



HISTORY

Teddy Roosevelt  
and the Spanish  
American War

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### KEY EVENTS

- **1882**  
Elected to the New York State Assembly at age 23
- **1898**  
Becomes a hero in the Spanish-American War; elected governor of New York
- **1900**  
Elected vice president
- **1901**  
Becomes president when McKinley is assassinated
- **1903**  
Gains Panama Canal Zone for the United States
- **1906**  
Visits Panama, becoming the first president to travel outside the country while in office
- **1919**  
Dies at home in New York