

War Beyond Borders

Trace how the Spanish-American War expanded United States power overseas.

8.3b "The Spanish-American War contributed to the rise of the United States as an imperial power."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that helped push the United States toward war, then circle three details that show how the war increased United States power overseas.

From War to Empire

- ① During the 1890s, some United States newspapers used yellow journalism, dramatic reporting meant to attract readers. Publishers printed large headlines and emotional stories about Spanish rule in Cuba. When the U.S.S. Maine exploded in Havana harbor on February 15, 1898, 266 American sailors died. The cause was not known at the time. Yet many newspapers blamed Spain without proof. Their reports increased public anger and added pressure on President William McKinley to act against Spain.
- ② In April 1898, Congress declared war on Spain. U.S. forces fought in Cuba and in the Philippines, a Spanish colony in the Pacific. The fighting lasted only a few months, and Spain was defeated. The Treaty of Paris, signed in December 1898, ended the war. Spain gave up Puerto Rico and Guam to the United States and ceded the Philippines to it. After U.S. military occupation, Cuba became independent in 1902. U.S.-imposed conditions still limited Cuban sovereignty, including a claimed right to intervene.
- ③ Before the war, the United States had expanded across North America, but it held few overseas colonies. After 1898, it controlled islands in the Caribbean and Pacific, far from the mainland. This was a major change in foreign policy. Imperialism occurs when a powerful country controls other lands or strongly influences their governments and economies. By gaining Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines, and by exerting influence in Cuba, the United States took on a larger role beyond its borders as an imperial power.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did yellow journalism help create pressure for the United States to go to war with Spain?

2 What three places did Spain give to the United States in the Treaty of Paris?

3 What happened to Cuba after the war, and how did the United States still affect Cuba?

4 Why did gaining islands in the Caribbean and Pacific mark a change in United States foreign policy?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences that explain how the Spanish-American War helped make the United States an imperial power. Include one cause of the war and at least two outcomes that increased United States power overseas.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that helped push the United States toward war, then circle three details that show how the war increased United States power overseas. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did yellow journalism help create pressure for the United States to go to war with Spain?	Newspapers used dramatic stories and blamed Spain for the Maine explosion without proof. This increased public anger and pressure on President McKinley to act.
2	What three places did Spain give to the United States in the Treaty of Paris?	Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines.
3	What happened to Cuba after the war, and how did the United States still affect Cuba?	The United States occupied Cuba until independence in 1902, then retained influence through conditions including a right to intervene.
4	Why did gaining islands in the Caribbean and Pacific mark a change in United States foreign policy?	Before the war, the United States held few overseas colonies. After the war, it controlled distant lands and had greater influence beyond its borders, showing a shift toward imperialism.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Yellow journalism stirred anger after the Maine exploded, helping build pressure for war with Spain. The United States defeated Spain and gained Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines through the Treaty of Paris. Controlling these distant lands, along with influencing Cuba, showed that the United States had become an imperial power.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect public pressure and war to overseas territorial gains or influence. For the open response, require exactly three sentences, a cause of war, and at least two accurate outcomes that demonstrate imperial power.