



#8628

BECOMING A MODERN NATION

Grade Levels: 8-13+

27 minutes

VIDEO KNOWLEDGE, INC. 1998

DESCRIPTION

What conditions led to America becoming a world power and, to some, losing sight of her ideals? Less than 30 years after the civil war, between 1898-1918, two other wars changed the role of the United States as a world power. Explores the events and significance of the Spanish-American war and World War I. Old footage and photos reinforce this succinct recounting of conflicts that changed history. Divided into four parts with discussion questions.

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To overview America's involvement in the Spanish-American War and World War I.
2. To present how America became a world power with global responsibilities.
3. To introduce America as the arsenal of democracy and simultaneously an imperial nation.

VOCABULARY

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. affairs | 10. inaugurate |
| 2. annex | 11. insurgent |
| 3. assassinate | 12. interfere at will |
| 4. belligerent | 13. mooring |
| 5. concentration camp | 14. official explanation |
| 6. consul | 15. oppression |
| 7. destructive power | 16. squadron |
| 8. forces | 17. troops occupied |
| 9. naked imperialism | 18. underwater mine |

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Review the countries involved in the Spanish-American War and World War I and the causes of the conflicts.
2. Find the following places on a map of the world.
 - a. Places associated with the Spanish-American War:
 - 1) Cuba: Havana Harbor, Havana, Santiago de Cuba, Las Guasimas, El Caney, San Juan Hill, Guantanamo

- 2) Philippines: Manila
 - 3) France: Paris
 - 4) Puerto Rico
 - 5) Guam
 - 6) Hawaii
 - 7) Samoan Islands
 - 8) Wake Island
 - 9) Hong Kong
- b. Places associated with World War I:
- 1) Caribbean
 - 2) The Far East: Japan
 - 3) Russia: Moscow, Murmansk, Archangel
 - 4) Europe: Austria, Serbia, Great Britain, France (Marne, Chateau-Thierry), Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy
 - 5) Asia: Turkey
 - 6) United States: Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Princeton University, New Jersey

DURING SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Pause the video after the second section regarding the Spanish-American War to answer the following on screen questions. Note which questions require further study.
 - a. What were some of the causes of the Spanish-American War?
 - b. What were some of the important battles?
 - c. Who were the "rough riders"?
 - d. Which territories did the United States acquire after the war?
 - e. What happened to those territories acquired during the Spanish-American War?
 - f. Who were important leaders at this time?
 - g. What were the main results of the Spanish-American War?
2. Pause the video after the second section regarding World War I to answer the following on screen questions. Note which questions require further study.
 - a. What changes occurred in American foreign policy after 1898?
 - b. What was the Russo-Japanese War?
 - c. Who was involved in the First World War?
 - d. How and why did American enter the war?
 - e. What changes did the war bring to Russia?
 - f. What happened after the war?



AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Discuss precursors to the Spanish-American War.
 - a. How had Spain's world empire been steadily falling apart throughout most of the 19th century?
 - b. How did men like Cortez and Pizarro bring territory and power into Spanish hands?
 - c. How did men like Bolivar and Hidalgo wrench away territory and power from Spanish hands?
 - d. Why did the Spanish firmly resist the desire of their colonies to become independent?
 - e. What harsh repressive measures did the Spanish take against the peasants who desired independence?
 - f. How had the United States grown to a position of importance as a world power after her own Civil War?
 - g. In what ways was America's importance in the early 20th century as a world power naked imperialism? A divine mission?
 - h. What factors were in work in America that caused the Spanish-American War?
 - i. Why did the Americans have sympathy for the Cuban people?
 - j. How did the desire for economics and political power influence the start of the Spanish-American War?
 - k. What is the difference between imperialism, and expanding economic holds on foreign markets and sources of raw materials?
 - l. How did President McKinley try to find ways to help the Cubans without war?
 - m. What series of incidents provoked the American Congress to declare war on Spain?
 - n. Why has the cause of the explosion of the Maine never been determined?
2. Discuss the Spanish-American War.
 - a. Why was the war short and one-sided?
 - b. What happened to the Spanish fleet in the first major engagement of the war?
 - c. How was the rest of the Spanish navy trapped?
 - d. Why did the Spanish retreat?
 - e. How did the Americans make up for what they lacked in training?
 - f. Where did heavy fighting ensue?
 - g. Why was the war, for all practical purposes, over when Santiago surrendered?
3. Discuss the profound, long-range effects of the Spanish-American War.
 - a. How did the Spanish-American war help America to become a modern nation?
 - b. What territories did American troops occupy after the war?
 - c. In what ways did the United States become an important factor in the Eastern hemisphere?
 - d. Why was Cuba under U.S. control?
 - e. Why did the U.S. reserve the right to interfere in Cuban affairs at will?

- f. In what ways did the American presence in Cuba bring improvements and good things?
 - g. What is remarkable about the fact that the United States emerged from its own civil war and then relatively quickly became a world power with global responsibilities?
4. Discuss the United States involvement in the Philippines.
- a. How did Americans become entangled in the struggle for Philippine independence?
 - b. What was the conflict when the United States paid Spain twenty million dollars for the Philippines?
 - c. What was Emilio Aguinaldo's initial conflict with Spain about?
 - d. What is the significance of Aguinaldo's heritage as a Spaniard, Oriental and Aboriginal?
 - e. What promise persuaded Aguinaldo to leave the Philippines? What happened after he left the country?
 - f. What promise did he receive from the American consul in Hong Kong?
 - g. Why did Dewey bring Aguinaldo back to the Philippines?
 - h. Why did Aguinaldo choose a type of guerilla warfare against the Spaniards?
 - i. How did Aguinaldo bring about the final defeat of the Spaniards in the Philippines?
 - j. Why was Aguinaldo almost immediately at war with the United States?
 - k. What was the battle that raged within America regarding the conflict in the Philippines?
 - l. What were the United States rights and responsibilities in the Philippines?
 - m. Were the Filipino people benefiting from American help?
5. Discuss America's transformation from a colony to a colonial power.
- a. What is remarkable about the United States transformation from a colony to a colonial power?
 - b. After the Treaty of Paris of 1898, how did America's colonial empire stretch around the world?
 - c. How was Hawaii almost thoroughly Americanized prior to statehood in 1959?
 - d. What happened to American ideals?
 - e. What was America doing with a world empire?
 - f. How did America come to such a place of importance?
6. Discuss American attitudes as the stage was set for World War I.
- a. What advice did George Washington give in his farewell address regarding America's role in world affairs?
 - b. What were the pros and cons of American turning its back to the Atlantic Ocean for nearly a century?
 - c. How did President Theodore Roosevelt mediate an end to the Russo-Japanese War?
 - d. What is the significance that the treaty between to end the Russo-Japanese War was signed at Portsmouth, New Hampshire?
 - e. What caused Russia to emerge as a power in the Pacific?

- f. What event caused the countries of Europe to go to war?
7. Discuss World War I
 - a. Who were the original member of the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente? Who did Japan and Turkey join? What led to these alliances?
 - b. What was the significance of the Battle of Flanders?
 - c. What was the impact of having a 500-mile front?
 - d. Why did both sides suffer tremendous casualties?
 - e. What did the armies of Germany and Austria-Hungary accomplish in Russia?
 - f. What was the significance of the submarine during World War I?
 - g. How did the British navy gain control of the seas?
 - h. Why did the Germans turn the submarine loose?
 8. Discuss American involvement in World War I.
 - a. How did World War I cause the United States to become a modern nation?
 - b. What was the significance of the sinking of the Lusitania?
 - c. What was the relationship between German use of the submarine and the United States declaration of war?
 - d. Why did the U.S. institute a draft?
 - e. Where was the U.S. troops first major battle in World War I?
 - f. How did America go on a war footing?
 - g. What was the result of American involvement in World War I?
 - h. How was American support enough to turn the tide?
 - i. What might have happened if America had not become involved in World War I?
 9. Discuss the European aftermath of World War I.
 - a. Why were the battles of the war massive?
 - b. How was the destruction awesome?
 - c. In what ways was Europe laid waste?
 - d. How was an era wiped out?
 - e. What were the results of the Treaty of Versailles?
 - f. What was President Wilson's goal and role in the Treaty of Versailles?
 - g. Why did Wilson believe that World War I would end all wars?
 - h. Why did Wilson seek justice for all at the peace conference?
 - i. What prevented Wilson from accomplishing his goals in the Treaty of Versailles?
 - j. Why did the victors impose harsh measures? How was Europe divided?
 - k. What is the current status of Wilson's League of Nations?
 - l. Why was Wilson convinced that a new era of peace was about to descend on the world?
 - m. How did the war bring the old order in Europe to an end?
 - n. What new forces were released in Europe after World War I?
 10. Discuss the Russian aftermath of World War I.
 - a. How did the war contribute to the destruction of the Russian monarchy?
 - b. Why did the Russian army retreat and desert through 1917?
 - c. Why did the Bolsheviks urge Russians to abandon the war and overthrow the czar?
 - d. How did the Bolsheviks succeed in power in Russia?

- e. How did the revolution bring the Allies in conflict with the Bolsheviks?
 - f. Why did America troops not participate directly in the fighting against the revolutionaries?
 - g. How did the destruction and atrocities of the revolution and the civil war that followed leave scars as deep as World War I on participants in Russia?
 - h. How did the scars from World War I, the Russian Revolution and the Russian Civil War affect the history of the half century to come and beyond?
11. Discuss the aftermath in the United States to World War I.
- a. What was the U.S. response to Wilson's proposed League of Nations?
 - b. Why may Wilson have suffered a stroke?
 - c. How did the end of World War I lead America to a turning point in their history?
 - d. How did America enter the world scene with high hopes?
 - e. Why did American disillusionment quickly set in? Why did America begin to turn inward again?
 - f. Regardless of Americans renewed focus on internal matters, why could their new role in the world community not be reversed?
 - g. How did America become the arsenal of democracy?

Applications and Activities

1. Write biographical sketches, eulogies, epithets or headstone markers for the following persons.
 - a. From the Spanish-American War

1) Cortez	7) George Dewey
2) Pizarro	8) Teddy Roosevelt
3) Bolivar	9) The Rough Riders
4) Hidalgo	10) Emilio Aguinaldo
5) William McKinley	11) William Howard Taft
6) Charles D. Sigsbee	
 - b. From World War I

1) George Washington	5) Trotsky
2) Theodore Roosevelt	6) Czar of Russia
3) Francis Ferdinand	7) Woodrow Wilson
4) Woodrow Wilson	
2. Discuss America's current status in the world by debating if the following statements from the video are still true, right or justifiable.
 - b. "There is no doubt that the majority of Americans feel that they had the mission to alleviate the oppression and suffering of their neighbors."
 - c. "America has gained an empire and lost her ideals."
 - d. "Having delivered the Filipinos from Spain, the United States was bound to protect their newly acquired liberty against the ambition and greed of other nations."
 - e. "America views our role as a benevolent father trying to bring up a backward child."

- f. "The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is to have with them as little political connection as is possible."
 - g. "Europe has a set of interests which to us have a very remote relation."
 - h. "As is the case of all wars, the actual events which loomed so large at the time they occurred, become in time less important than the drastic changes which result from the conflict."
 - i. "America entered on the world scene with high hopes and probably really expected to light the world with their idealism."
3. Investigate the current status of territories that the United States became involved in after the Spanish-American War. Consider: Puerto Rico, Philippines, Guam, Hawaii, Samoan Islands, Wake Island and Cuba.
 4. Using an outline map of the world, shade in America's empire in 1898 after the Treaty of Paris. Differentiate between the land of America's citizens, annexed land, occupied land and land held under trusteeship.
 5. Research American occupation in Cuba.
 - b. How long did Americans retain a presence in Cuba?
 - c. What was the response of Cuban nationals to Americans in their country?
 - d. How did America repeatedly interfere in Cuban affairs during this era of American occupation?
 - e. What is the current relationship between the U.S. and Cuba?
 6. Use the following "headlines" to write editorials regarding the following incidents.
 - a. Aguinaldo leaving the Philippines as a result of the Spaniards promises
 - b. America battles against Filipinos who want to govern themselves
 - c. The United States Congress and the courts grapple with the problem of what America is doing in the Philippines
 - d. For nearly a century, America turned its back to the Atlantic Ocean
 - e. Wilson says that World War I is the war that will end all wars
 7. Consider the impact of technology on the world.
 - a. Why is there a need for arms treaties?
 - b. What were the initial submarines utilized in World War I like?
 8. Research current selective service and drafts in the United States and countries around the world.
 9. Investigate Air Aces of World War I.
 - a. In what way were these men and women pioneers?
 - b. What was required to be a World War I airman?
 10. List President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points and his belief in the self-determination of all peoples.

RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- 1914 – 1918: World War I #3201



World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and “kid-safe” sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **CROSSROADS: A K-16 AMERICAN HISTORY CURRICULUM**

<http://ericir.syr.edu/Virtual/Lessons/crossroads/>

This curriculum is composed of thirty-six units equally distributed among elementary, middle and high school grade levels, as well as course syllabi for preservice social studies educators on the subjects of American history and history education.

- **PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES**

<http://www.ipl.org/ref/POTUS/>

Includes background information, election results, cabinet members, notable events and points of interest on each of the presidents. Links to biographies, historical documents, audio and video files and other presidential sites are also included.

- **U. S. HISTORY: WORLD WAR CYCLE**

<http://www.seanet.com/Users/pamur/wwii.html>

Includes comprehensive information regarding events leading up to World War I, in addition to detailed links to specific World War I sites.