PBS Crucible of Empire: The Spanish American War

Act I – The Only Recourse

1. List 4 of the new inventions or products that were displayed at the World’s Columbian Exposition in 1893.
2. List some of the nations involved with the “New Imperialism” of the 1890s.
3. What export from Cuba made the island important to the Spanish empire?
4. When did the Cubans begin to rebel against Spain? Why?



1. Who was Maximo Gomez?
2. What is the name of the Cuban revolutionary movement? Their flag is on the right.
3. Who was Jose Marti? What did he want to achieve in Cuba?
4. Why was Marti’s death important to the Cuba Libre movement?
5. Why was General Weyler and what did he do?
6. What was the name of William Randolph Hearst’s newspaper?
7. Describe President William McKinley’s position about going to war with Spain.
8. How did Theodore Roosevelt’s (Assistant Secretary of the Navy) position about war with Spain differ from McKinley?
9. Alfred Mahan argued for a new Navy for the United States. Why did he think the new navy was important?



Another flag of the Katipunan different from the one in the film.

1. What imperial nation owned the Philippines?
2. How many newspapers did President McKinley read per day?
3. Who were Emilio Aguinaldo and the Katipunan?

1. Describe the effect created by Yellow Journalism in the case of Cuban girl Evangelina Cisneros.
2. Why was the U.S.S. Maine sent to Havana Harbor in Cuba?
3. What happened to the U.S.S. Maine in February 1898?
4. How did America respond?

Act II – They Are Our Redeemers

1. How many U.S. sailors were killed during the capture of Manila Bay?
2. Where were many of the Spanish-American War movies filmed?
3. How many volunteers signed up when President McKinley called for 200,000 volunteers?
4. After Theodore Roosevelt Resigned as Assistant Secretary of the navy what military group did he join?
5. In what ways were American volunteer soldiers unprepared for war in Cuba?
6. What common tropical disease was a danger to U.S. troops?
7. Why were many African Americans opposed to participating in the war against Spain?
8. Why was the arrival of African-American troops in Tampa Florida controversial?
9. Why did Roosevelt’s “Rough Riders” became an infantry regiment while heading to Cuba?
10. Who was “Rain in the Face” and “Texas”?
11. What structure protected Spanish soldiers at El Caney?
12. What hill did the “Rough Riders” actually attack near the San Juan Heights?
13. What was special about the U.S. 9th and 10th Cavalry regiments?
14. In your opinion was Roosevelt rude to the black soldiers?
15. What was ironic about the name of the last Spanish Ship sunk during the war in Cuba?
16. How many U.S. Troops died of disease in Cuba?
17. Was the amount of death from disease greater than or less than the men who died in combat?
18. Explain why it was significant that the United States flag replaced the Spanish flag in Cuba and not the flag of Cuba Libre.
19. Were Filipino soldiers happy about having U.S. soldiers aid them in their fight against the Spanish?

Act III – One Man and All Our Institutions

1. How many Filipino soldiers were in the battle of Manila?
2. Why were Aguinaldo and his followers upset at the surrender of the Spanish in the Philippines?
3. How many Filipinos were at the peace negotiations in Paris?
4. How many Cubans were there?
5. What happened to the Spanish Empire after signing the Treaty of Paris which ended the Spanish-American War?
6. Describe the negotiations in the U.S. Congress over the Treaty of Paris. What are the two main opinions being expressed?
	1.
	2.

1. Why did the Filipinos rebel against American soldiers that had helped them defeat the Spanish?
2. Did Americans believe the Filipino Insurrection would be a long war against them? Why or why not?
3. What methods to Americans use to improve life in Cuba and prevent a rebellion there?

a.

b.

c.

1. What would the Teller Amendment have done?
2. Were all Americans in favor of becoming an *empire* by annexing the Philippines?
3. Describe **guerilla** war tactics as used by Filipinos against American soldiers.
4. Why did American soldiers call Filipinos “Indians”?
5. For what reasons were Theodore Roosevelt nominated for Vice-President in 1900?
6. Who was re-elected President of the United States in 1900?
7. The Platt Amendment to the Cuban Constitution made Cuba a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the United States?
8. How was that different than the Teller Amendment?
9. What happened to Emilio Aguinaldo?
10. How was President McKinley assassinated?
11. Who became the new President of the United States?
12. When did the Filipino “insurgents” finally end their guerilla war against the U.S.?
13. The Philippines became a United States colony. When did it finally get its own independence?
14. When the United States military withdrew from Havana Cuba in 1902 what military responsibilities did it

keep?

1. Did the U.S. military ever have to go back to Cuba?
2. When did Cuba finally receive complete independence?
3. What happened to the U.S.S. Maine in 1911?
4. Where is the Maine now?