

Name: _____

Date: _____

Cuba Gains Independence

Cuba was a Spanish colony until Spain's defeat in the Spanish-American War. The war originated in the Cuban struggle for independence but the United States had a bigger role than Spain.

In the nineteenth century, many Americans believed in Manifest Destiny, an idea that it was the destiny of the United States to expand across all of North America. American newspaper publishers Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst fueled American patriotism by reporting sensational stories about Spanish brutality in Cuba. The United States tried to purchase Cuba from Spain four times in the nineteenth century. Spain's empire in the Caribbean was crumbling and Spain might have agreed to sell Cuba if the Americans offered a more reasonable price.

In 1898, American president William McKinley sent the United States battleship Maine to Cuba to protect American citizens. Angry crowds protested when the battleship arrived because they felt the Maine was a threatening gesture to Cuba. That night, the city was awakened by a blast that sank the Maine, killing more than 250 crewmen. The cause of the disaster was not uncovered. The Americans blamed underwater mines, while Spanish investigators insisted it was an internal



explosion. The American people were outraged. The phrase, "Remember the Maine" became a battle cry encouraged by Pulitzer and Hearst. The people demanded war, and Congress agreed.

The United States Congress declared that Cuba was an independent nation, and authorized President McKinley to use the military to force the Spanish from Spain. The resulting Spanish-American War was brief and one-sided. After the American victory, Spain granted independence to Cuba and gave the United States the colonies of Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Guam in exchange for \$20,000,000.

The United States recognized Cuba as an independent nation, but would not agree to withdraw their forces unless the Cubans agreed to several conditions. The Platt Amendment was passed by the American Congress in 1901 and added to the Cuban constitution. It gave the United States the right to lease land for a naval base on Cuban territory, and gave the United States the right to intervene with military force should events on the island seem to be dangerous to American interests. The United States occupied Cuba from 1906 to 1909, and again in 1912. This angered many Cubans, who felt they were putting themselves under the control of a foreign power.

Answer in a complete sentences

*35. What events in American history fueled the idea of Manifest Destiny?

*36. William Randolph Hearst was the publisher of the New York Journal newspaper. In 1897, Hearst said to photographer Frederic Remington, "You furnish the picture, We'll furnish the war." Why do you think Hearst reported sensational stories about Spanish brutality in Cuba?

*This is a higher order learning question. You must answer the question to the best of your ability, but any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.

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Fill in the Blanks

The U_____ S_____ was instrumental in helping C_____ become
i_____ of S_____, but American intervention in C_____ has not always been
welcome. In the n_____ century, many American believed in M_____
D_____, an i_____ that it was the d_____ of the U_____ S_____
to *s_r_a_ out across N_____ America. American n_____ publishers Joseph
P_____ and William Randolph H_____ fueled American p_____
by reporting s_____ stories of S_____ brutality in C_____.

American p_____ William M_____ sent the US b_____
Maine to C_____ to p_____ American c_____ in 18_____. *U_h_p_y
Cubans p_____ the a_____ of the M_____ because they felt the
battleship was a t_____ gesture to C_____. The night it arrived in Cuba, a b_____
sunk the M_____, killing more than 250 A_____ crewmen. The American people were
o_____. The phrase, "R_____ the M_____" became a b_____ cry
e_____ in the n_____. The people demanded w_____, so
C_____ authorized President McKinley to use m_____ force to remove the
S_____ from C_____. America won the b_____ and one-sided S_____
American W_____, and gained the colonies of P_____ Rico, G_____, and the
P_____ in exchange for twenty m_____ dollars.

The United States r_____ Cuba as an i_____ nation, but the
f_____ Cuba to agree to the P_____ Amendment. The Platt A_____ gave
A_____ the r_____ to l_____ land for a n_____ base on C_____ territory,
and the right to i_____ in C_____ affairs. The United States o_____
Cuba twice, a_____ many C_____ who felt they were being c_____ by
a f_____ power.

Answer in Complete Sentences

*3. American Navy Secretary Theodore Roosevelt was frustrated with President McKinley's attempts to avoid war. Roosevelt complained that the President had "no more backbone than a chocolate éclair." Why do you think so many American were eager for war with Spain at the end of the nineteenth century?

*4. Why do you think the United States insisted on the Platt Amendment before withdrawing their forces from Cuba?

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