The Spanish-American War

Why did the United States go to war against Spain in 1898, and why was the outcome significant?

Key Content Terms
As you complete the Reading Notes, use these Key Content Terms in your answers:

- yellow journalism
- USS Maine
- Rough Riders
- San Juan Hill
- Anti-Imperialist League
- Platt Amendment

Preview
Consider this question: When is it appropriate for the United States to send soldiers to fight and face death on foreign soil?

Choose up to three of the following reasons. In your notebook, explain each of your choices in a sentence or two.

- to assist an ally of the United States
- to protect territory that is close to U.S. borders
- to stop human rights abuses
- to acquire resources
- to gain power
- to acquire territory
- to improve national security
- to spread or protect American values and moral beliefs
- to fight against tyrannical governments
- under no circumstances is it ever appropriate
- other (explain)

Reading Notes
You will be creating the front page of a newspaper using images cut from Notebook Handout 20 and articles that you write as you respond to each section of the reading. To begin, set up your newspaper across two pages of your notebook as shown.

Section 20.2
Read Section 20.2. Then, next to the image for this section, write a letter to the editor expressing your feelings about the coverage in the New York World and New York Journal of events in Cuba. Your letter should include

- your thoughts on the accuracy of these stories.
- your ideas on the coverage of these events as an effort to keep Americans informed.
- the term reconcentration camps.
Section 20.3
Read Section 20.3. Then, next to the image for this section, write a lead story sensationalizing the publication of the de Lôme letter and the explosion of the USS Maine in order to fuel public anger toward Spain. Your story should include
- the basic details of each incident.
- attempts to encourage Americans to press the U.S. government into war with Spain.
- the terms de Lôme letter and USS Maine.

Section 20.4
Read Section 20.4. Then, next to the image for this section, write a report from the battlefront as if you were a war correspondent. Your report must include
- details of the various battles taking place in Cuba.
- reports of casualties.
- the terms Rough Riders and San Juan Hill.

Section 20.5
Read Section 20.5. Then, next to the image for this section, write a caption for the cartoon in which you describe the events that prompted the cartoonist to draw it. Your caption must include
- an explanation of each character in the cartoon and who each represents.
- the terms Platt Amendment and Anti-Imperialist League.

PROCESSING
Answer each question in a few sentences. Make sure to incorporate the question into your answer.
1. Which of the reasons listed in the Preview do you think best apply to the Spanish-American War? Why?
2. Do you think the United States was justified in sending troops to Cuba and the Philippines to fight against Spain? Why or why not?
3. Did U.S. actions in the Spanish-American War promote or hinder the advancement of the ideals of opportunity and democracy? In what ways?
4. How did the Spanish-American War reflect the new role of the United States as a world power?