

NAME _____

Spanish-American War: Battles and Outcome

Even before the official declaration of war against Spain, the American fleet in the Pacific was steaming off to the Philippines, which had been a part of the Spanish empire for over 300 years. In the event that war was declared against Spain, they were to capture the enemy squadron in Manila, the Philippine capital. On May 1, 1898, just days after the official declaration of war, Commodore George Dewey and six ships arrived in Manila Bay to begin bombardment of the fleet. In a matter of hours, the United States navy had destroyed the Spanish fleet and blockaded the harbor. American troops entered the Philippine islands the day after an armistice, or agreement to stop fighting, was signed.

Meanwhile, in Cuba, the Spanish fleet in the Atlantic was docked in Santiago Harbor. By the end of May, United States warships had arrived to blockade the Cuban harbor. The next month, on June 22, U.S. troops landed in Cuba just east of Santiago. The Americans found the going rough in the hills of Cuba, for the Spanish had strongly fortified positions. Casualties were high. Among the troops which drew heavy fire was a volunteer unit called the "Rough Riders." It was led by Theodore Roosevelt, who had resigned his office as Assistant Secretary of the Navy to join the cause. The Rough Riders were actually a cavalry unit, but this time they fought only on foot, for their horses never made it to the island.

Two days after Roosevelt's men succeeded in taking Kettle Hill on the ridge overlooking Santiago, the most decisive battle of the war took place. (See map p. 25.) In the battle of San Juan Hill, the Americans emerged victorious, and Roosevelt became an instant hero.

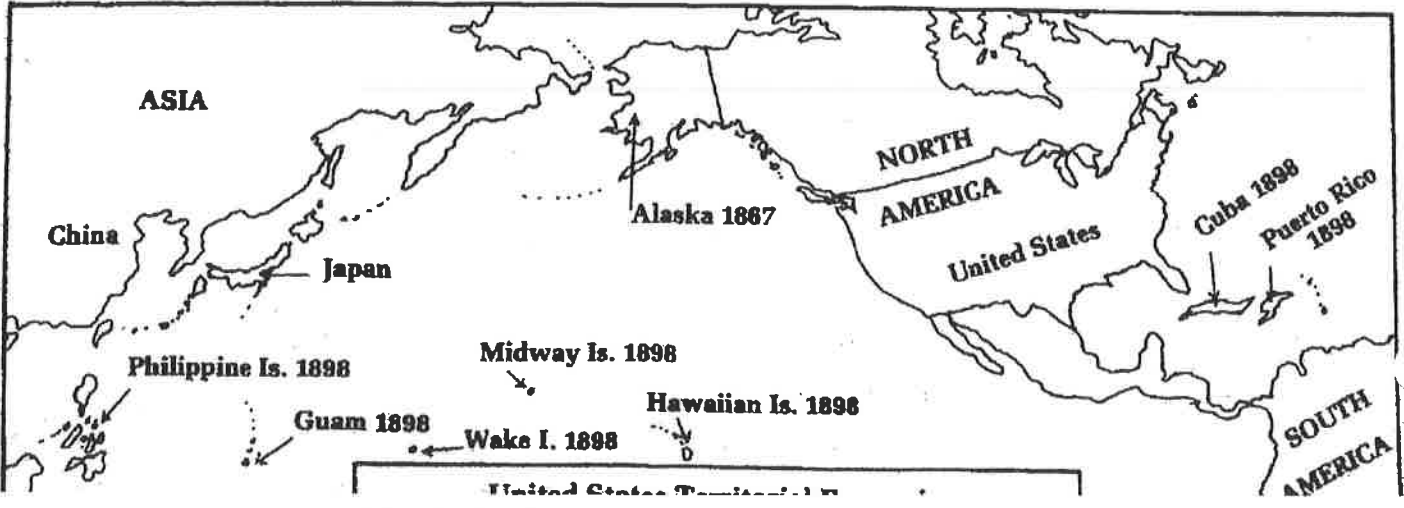
On July 3, 1898, the Spanish attempted to move their fleet out of Santiago Harbor. The Americans

opened fire, destroying all the escaping ships. On July 17, the Spanish in Santiago surrendered. With no options remaining, the Spanish government in Cuba also surrendered. Shortly after this victory, the U.S. occupied Puerto Rico, an island southeast of Cuba. Along with Cuba, the Philippines, and the island of Guam, Puerto Rico came under the protection of the United States. The war with Spain was over. With the ratification of the Treaty of Paris early in 1899, America became an imperialist country with an empire stretching from the Caribbean to the distant Pacific.

In the election of 1900, William Jennings Bryan again represented the Democrats. McKinley proved a tough opponent, running on a platform of expanded territories and continued prosperity under a Republican Administration. Aiding the ticket was the nomination for Vice-President of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, hero of San Juan Hill. Winning easily, the Republicans remained in the White House.

Use the Map

1. What lands did the U.S. gain following the Spanish-American War? _____
2. What part of North America was under U.S. control before the Spanish-American War? _____
3. The first American victory in the war occurred in the Philippines. Why? _____



United States Territorial Expansion

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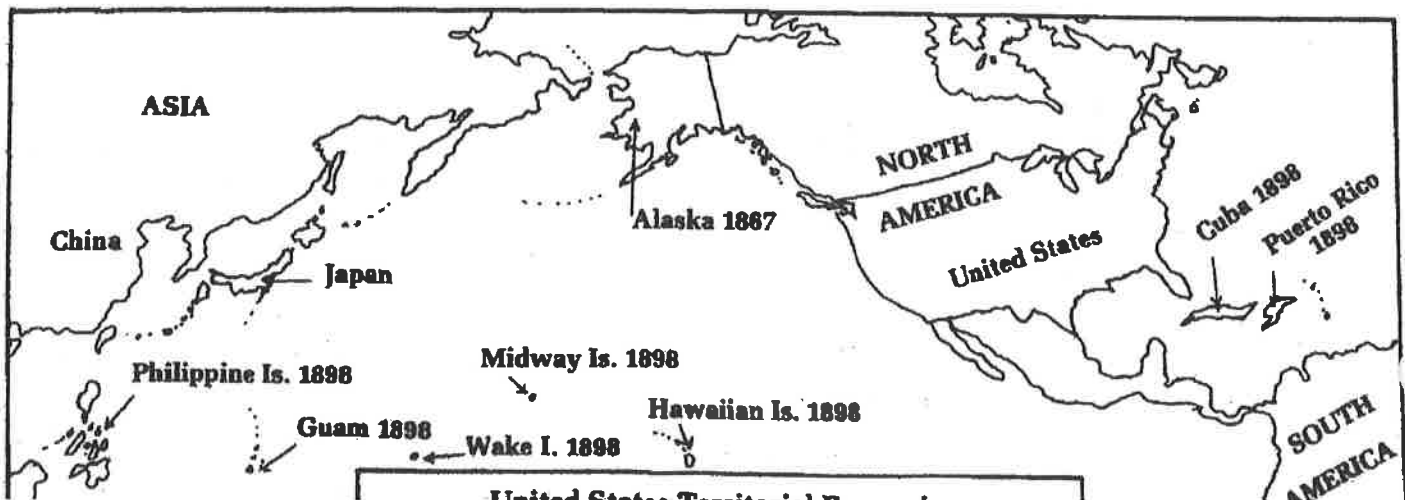
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