

Oklahoma C3 Standards for United States History:

- Content Standard 2: The student will analyze the expanding role of the United States in international affairs as America was transformed into a world power in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, 1890 to 1920.
 - Item 1: Cite specific textual and visual evidence to evaluate the impact of American imperialism on international relations and explain its impact on developing nations.
 - Objective A: Compare and contrast the economic, religious, social, and political rationales for American imperialism including the concept of “white man’s burden,” the annexation of Hawaii, the impact of Admiral Alfred T. Mahan, and the actions of the Anti-Imperialist League.
 - Objective C: Examine how the Spanish-American War resulted in the rise of the United States as a world power, and led to new territorial acquisitions and national insurrections in Cuba and the Philippines.
 - Objective D: Compare and contrast the foreign policies of Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and Woodrow Wilson including Big Stick Diplomacy, Dollar Diplomacy, Missionary Diplomacy, the *Roosevelt Corollary*, military interventionism, and the territorial acquisition and construction of the Panama Canal.

Have students respond to the following topic: “In what ways do the U.S.’s interactions with other countries within one time period impact the potential for interactions in the future?”

Have students (in small groups or as a whole class) brainstorm issues surrounding the United States’ entry into war with Afghanistan and Iraq during the presidency of George W. Bush and the continuation of each during the presidency of Barack Obama. Due to the ages which students were during these developments, supplementary material may be needed to assist students. Have students predict what the legacy of this international involvement might be 10 or 20 years from now.

Have students study the interactions of the United States with other countries during the era “American Imperialism” (late 1800s & early 1900s); focusing especially upon the decision to go to war with Spain. In what ways did the events of this era impact U.S. relationships with other countries during the next 5 years? 10 years? 20 years? If necessary, help students make connections with the war in the Philippines, the Panama Canal and development of “Big Stick Diplomacy” (T. Roosevelt), Dollar Diplomacy (Taft), Moral Diplomacy (Wilson), and U.S. involvement in World War I.

Discuss with students to how some of the issues from the Spanish American War (and Imperialism as a whole) are important for decades on in to the future (even to today). Have students make some predictions on how that era impacted relationships with other countries all the way up to today (Platt Amendment...Bay of Pigs in 1960s, legacy of ill will from numerous Latin American countries, etc.). Make sure kids get the connection for why we still own Guantanamo Bay which then has connections to the war on terror today.

Conclude by having students revisit the legacy of Afghanistan and Iraq and/or other examples of U.S. foreign policy. Ultimately, have students respond once again to the topic: “In what ways do the U.S.’s interactions with other countries within one time period impact the potential for interactions in the future?”