

Focused Learning Lesson
American History
Grade Level: 11
H-1B-H10

Overview:

This lesson is designed to introduce students to the concept of “imperialism.” Students will focus on the imperialistic nature of the United States during the early twentieth century, particularly the time period surrounding the Spanish American War. Students will investigate the new United States territories which developed during this time period, discover how these territories were acquired, and finally, locate these territories on a world map. Additionally, the lesson will take students a step further and have them realize the impact of these U.S. acquisitions on the foreign policy of the United States prior to World War I. As a final method of assessment, students will trace the foreign policies of the United States from the expansionism of the early Imperial Age to the isolationism following World War I.

Approximate Duration:

45 minutes

Benchmarks and GLEs:

H-1B-H10 - Explaining the changing role of the U.S. in world affairs through World War I

GLEs:

28. Locate on a world map the territories acquired by the United States during its emergence as an imperial power in the world and explain how these territories were acquired.
29. Explain the U.S. policy of *imperialism* and how it increased U.S. involvement in world affairs

Objectives:

1. The learner will analyze and explain the interactions between the United States and foreign countries in the early twentieth century prior to World War I.
2. The learner will define *imperialism* and discuss United States’ foreign acquisitions during the Imperial Age.

Teacher Preparation:

- To prepare for this lesson, the teacher will need to review the content notes provided in Attachment 1 and prepare to lead a class discussion about American Imperialism and foreign policy from 1880-1910.
- Additionally, the teacher will need to make class copies of Attachment 2, and 3, which will be used in the lesson and for assessment purposes. The teacher may

also wish to locate the items on the map in Attachment 2 and make a transparency to facilitate checking the students' work.

Materials/Equipment/Resources:

- Teacher Notes (Attachment 1)
- Copies of map worksheet, "American Imperialism" (Attachment 2)
- Student copies of an American History Text with a world map or student copies of a world Atlas
- Copies of Constructed Response Question (Attachment 3)
- World map (optional)
- Overhead projector and transparency of Teacher Notes/Student Map (optional)

Lesson Procedures:

Set or Opener

Begin the lesson by asking students to imagine what it would be like living in a world where the United States was not a dominate power. Would our lives be different? If so, how?

Body of the Lesson

Explain that the United States was not always a world power, and that it gained most of its power and influence prior to and during World War I.

Have students brainstorm a definition for the word, "imperialism."

Discuss the Spanish American War with the students and explain how the United States emerged during this war as a political leader and intervened in the affairs of Cuba and Spain.

1. Have students make a list of the provisions of the Treaty of Paris (1898), paying special attention to the United State's acquisitions as a result of the Spanish-American War.
2. Explain how the acquisition of these territories from the Treaty of Paris (1898), in addition to other U.S. acquisitions such as Hawaii, helped to shape the U.S. foreign policies for this era.
3. At this point, have students complete the map worksheet provided in Attachment 2. The teacher may choose to have students work individually or with a partner, but the students will need use of an American history textbook or an atlas to complete the map.
4. Discuss the locations of these selected areas on the map and point out the correct locations to the students. (The teacher may choose to make a transparency here to facilitate correcting the students' work.)
5. The teacher may choose to delete or add items to be located on the map.
6. After the map activity, bring the students back together. Using the teacher notes in Attachment #1, discuss the foreign policies of the following presidents: Teddy Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson. The teacher may have the students arrange this data in a graphic organizer or a structured outline format.

7. Next, have students create a list of three goals accomplished or achievements made by the United States during this Imperialistic time period. (See teacher notes in Attachment 1)
8. Discuss how these new “interests” of the United States were key to their involvement in World War I and how “Imperialism” was one of the main causes of this war.
9. Discuss some of the results of World War I and its effect on American foreign policy.

Closure

As a culminating activity, have students complete the constructed response question provided in Attachment 3.

Assessment Items:

The informal assessment for this lesson consists of questions and answers during the class discussions, and the formal assessment consists of two class activities (World Map Identification and Constructed Response Question.) Along with the worksheet in Attachment 3, there is also a rubric that can be used when formally assessing student work.

Reference Links and Technology Connections:

Danzer, G., J. Klor de Alva, L. Wilson, & N. Woloch. (1998). *The Americans*. Evanston, IL: McDougal Littell.

American Imperialism

Imperialism

- The policy in which stronger nations extend their economic, political, or military control over weaker territories

Spanish – American War

- Anti-Spanish sentiments on the island of Cuba led to a rebellion. When the Spanish military forced thousands into concentration camps, American newspapers used *yellow journalism* to lure readers into the situation.
- President McKinley sent the U.S.S. Maine to protect American lives and property. The ship was exploded and sunk, and then “Remember the Maine” became the U.S. rallying cry for intervention in Cuba.

Treaty of Paris 1898

- Ended the Spanish-American war and set forth the following:
 - Cuba became independent
 - Cuba became a U.S. protectorate, which is a country whose affairs are partially controlled by a stronger power.
 - U.S. gained the territories of Puerto Rico and Guam
 - U.S. annexed the Philippine Islands for \$20 million from Spain
- Gaining Puerto Rico was strategically important to the United States for maintaining a presence in the Caribbean and for protecting the canal that would be built across the Isthmus of Panama.

U.S. Foreign Policy during the Age of Imperialism

- Open Door Policy
 - U.S. Secretary of State John Hay called for the equal and open access to China’s coastal ports.
- Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine
 - Roosevelt believed in a West African proverb that said, “Speak softly and carry a big stick, you will go far.” The U.S. claimed the right to protect its economic interests by means of military intervention in the affairs of the western hemisphere nations.
- Dollar Diplomacy
 - The policy of President Taft to use the U.S. government to guarantee loans made to foreign countries by American business people.
- Missionary Diplomacy

- The policy of President Wilson states that the U.S. had a moral responsibility to deny recognition to any Latin American government it viewed as oppressive, undemocratic or hostile to U.S. interests.

Three foreign policy goals achieved by the United States during the early 20th century

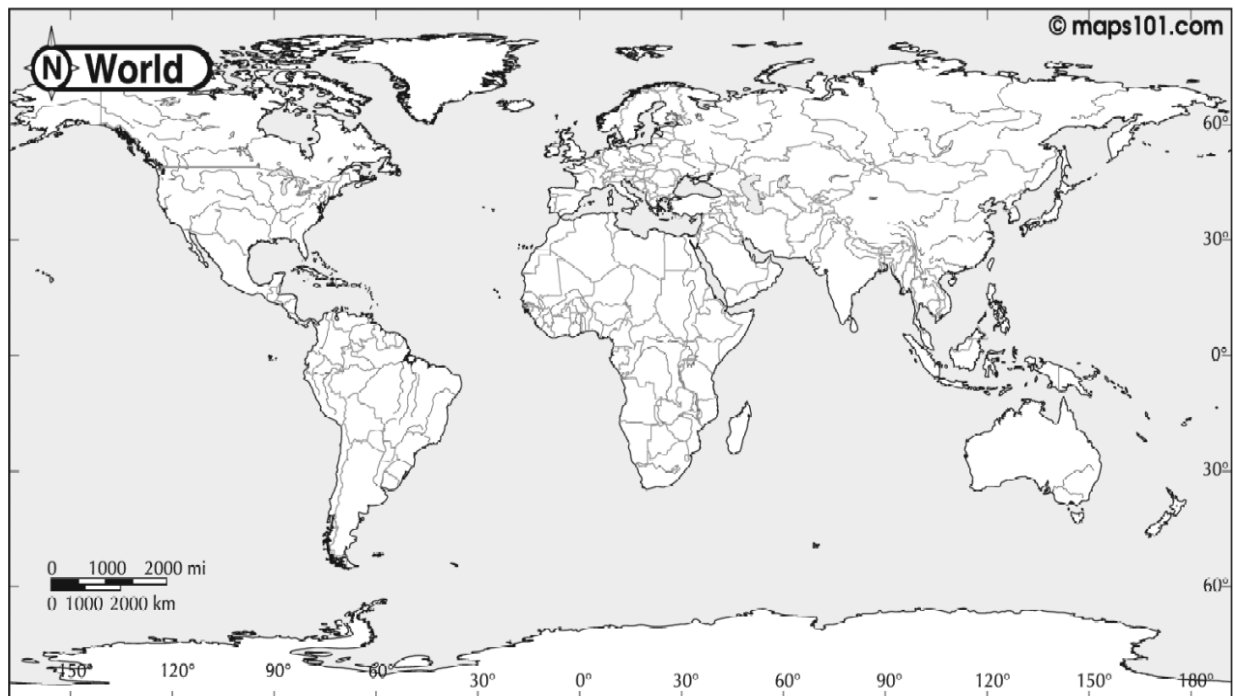
- Expanded its access to foreign markets to ensure continued growth of domestic economy.
- U.S. built a modern navy to protect its interests abroad.
- U.S. exercised its international police power to ensure American dominance in Latin America.

After much effort to remain neutral, the United States was pulled into World War I due to its new connections with these foreign countries. Following the involvement in WWI, the United States entered a period of isolationism in which it withdrew from all involvement in world affairs.

U.S. Imperialism 1880-1910

Directions: Identify the following locations on the world map provided below:

- United States
- Spain
- Cuba
- Atlantic Ocean
- Pacific Ocean
- China
- Philippines
- Guam
- Hawaiian Islands
- Panama Canal Zone
- Puerto Rico
- Alaska



Constructed Response: American Foreign Policy Through World War I

What is foreign policy? Chronologically describe the changes that occurred in America's foreign policy during the early twentieth century, beginning with the Imperial Age and ending with the conclusion of World War I.

4	The student demonstrates a firm grasp of the topic of foreign policy and addresses each of the required points discussed in the directions. The student identifies the following changes in foreign policy: expansion, neutrality, involvement and isolation. The student also uses details from the lecture and reading to support his writing.
3	The student demonstrates knowledge of the topic and addresses each of the required points discussed in the directions, but fails to mention all four foreign policy changes.
2	The student shows a basic understanding of the topic, but does not address each of the required points discussed in the directions.
1	The student demonstrates some understanding of the topic of foreign policy and addresses one or more of the points discussed in the directions.
0	The student does not display knowledge of the topic and fails to address any points discussed in the directions.