

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will have a comprehensive understanding of the shortest war in U.S. history, including its causes, key events, and consequences. The student will also be able to articulate the significance of this conflict in a broader historical context.

Materials and Prep

- Notebook and pen or pencil for note-taking.
- Access to a computer or device for online research (if needed).
- Whiteboard or large paper for brainstorming activities.
- Markers or colored pencils for creative projects.

Before starting the lesson, ensure the student has a basic understanding of the context surrounding the war, including the time period and the nations involved.

Activities

• Research Project:

The student will research the Spanish-American War (1898), focusing on its causes, major battles, and outcomes. They can create a timeline of events to visualize the war's progression.

• Creative Presentation:

The student will prepare a short presentation (3-5 minutes) summarizing their research findings. They can use visual aids, such as slides or posters, to enhance their presentation.

• Debate Activity:

Organize a mock debate where the student takes on the role of a historical figure from the war (e.g., a military leader or politician). They will present arguments for or against the war based on historical perspectives.

• Reflection Essay:

The student will write a short essay reflecting on the significance of the Spanish-American War in U.S. history. They should consider questions like, "What did the war change in the U.S.?" and "What lessons can we learn from it today?"

Talking Points

- "Did you know the Spanish-American War lasted only about 10 weeks? It's considered the shortest war in U.S. history!"
- "The war was primarily fought over the issue of Cuban independence from Spain. Why do you think this was important to the U.S.?"
- "Key battles, like the Battle of San Juan Hill, were crucial in determining the outcome of the war. Can you name any famous figures from these battles?"
- "The war resulted in the U.S. acquiring territories like Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. How do you think this changed the role of the U.S. in the world?"
- "Some people argue that the war was an imperialistic move by the U.S. What do you think? Was it justified?"
- "The Treaty of Paris officially ended the war. What do you think were its most important terms?"

- "Reflecting on this war, what lessons do you think modern nations can learn about conflicts and their resolutions?"