

Document Based Essay

Grade 8

“American Imperialism”

Directions:

The following question is based on the accompanying documents (1-4). This question is designed to test your ability to work with historic documents. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the sources of the document and the author’s point of view.

Historical Context:

Following the Civil War, America expanded its territory, international influence, and trade relations with other nations. This period of expansion is known as the era of American Imperialism.

Question:

Using information from the documents and your knowledge of social studies, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay in which you will be asked to.

- Describe the Spanish-American War and its role at the beginnings of a period of American imperialism.
- Discuss the building of the Panama Canal and its impact on trade and America’s military strength.
- Evaluate the positive and negative results of American imperialism.

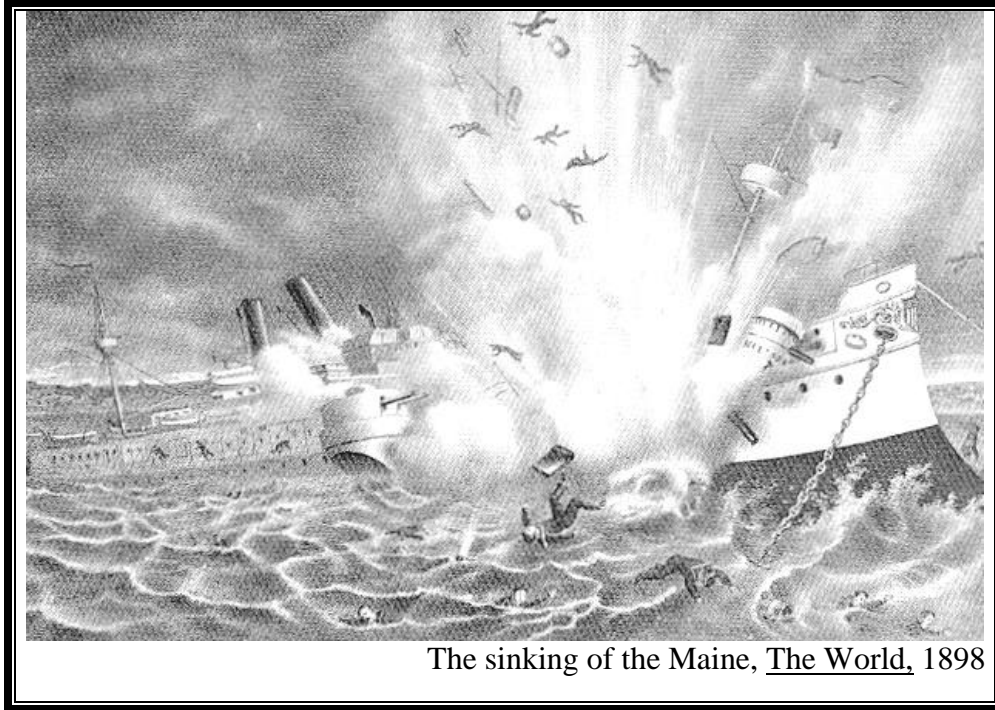
Part A Short Answer:

Examine the documents that follow closely and then answer the questions that follow. Carefully read and analyze each document. Answer each question on the separate answer sheet using evidence from the document and your knowledge of Social Studies.

Part B Essay Answer:

Answer the question in a well-organized essay that uses your answers from Part A. Use evidence from the Documents and your knowledge of Social Studies to support the ideas in your essay. You should use definitions, examples, evidence, and other specific examples to fully develop the Topic.

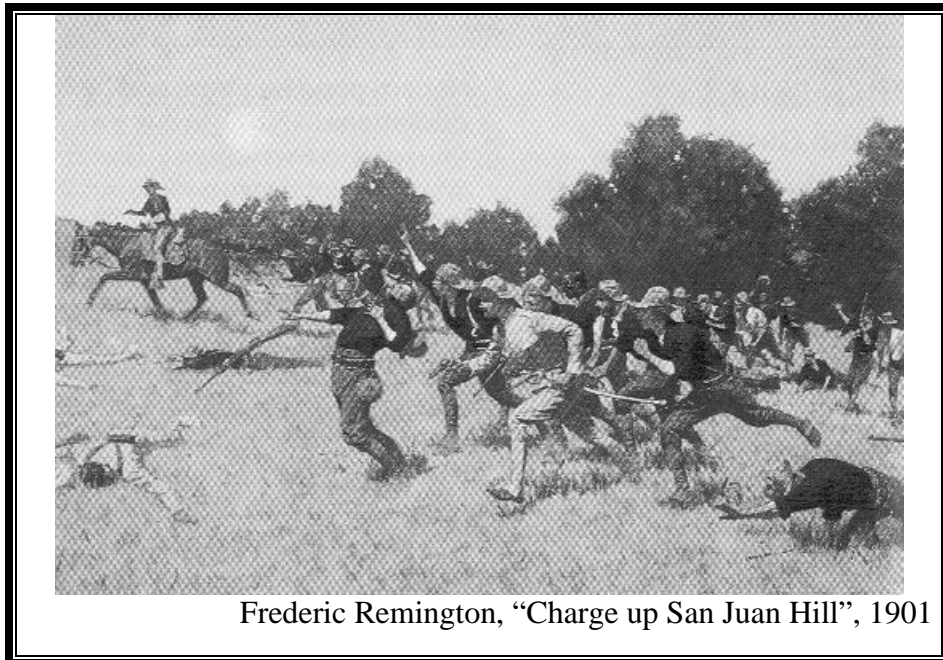
Document #1



The sinking of the Maine, The World, 1898

- 1 A) Describe the event portrayed in the picture and explain its role in starting the Spanish-American War.

Document #2



Frederic Remington, "Charge up San Juan Hill", 1901

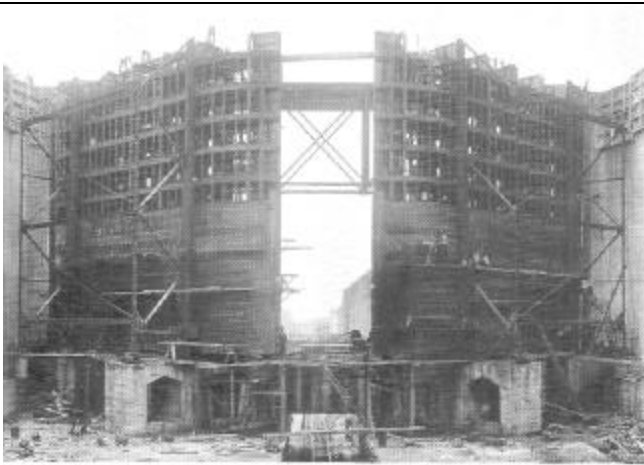
- 2 A) Describe the event portrayed in the picture and its significance.

Document #3



- 3 A) What is the cartoon showing about the effect of the Spanish American War?
- 3 B) Explain the role the Spanish-American War had in American Imperialism.

Document Set #4



82-foot-high gates, Gatun Upper Locks, 1911.



Construction crews, Gaillard Cut, 1913.

- 4 A) Describe what the pictures show about the work on the Panama Canal?
- 4 B) What was the importance of the Panama Canal to American Imperialism?

Document #5



"A Canal This Time, at All Hazards." *Ohio State Journal*, (March 1903)

- 5 A) What is the cartoon showing America's treatment of Columbia?

Document #6

The West Indies drift toward us, the Republic of Mexico hardly longer has an independent life, and the city of Mexico is an American town. With the completion of the Panama Canal all Central America will become part of our system. We have expanded into Asia, we have attracted the fragments of the Spanish dominions, and reaching out into China we have checked the advance of Russia and Germany. . . . We are penetrating into Europe, and Great Britain especially is gradually assuming the position of a dependency. . . .

The United States will outweigh any single empire, if not all empires combined. The whole world will pay her tribute. Commerce will flow to her from both east and west, and the order which has existed from the dawn of time will be reversed.

From Brooks Adams, *The New Empire*, 1902.

6 A) What examples of American Imperialism are mentioned in this quote?

Document #7

The Philippines are ours forever.... And just beyond the Philippines are China's illimitable markets. We will not retreat from either. We will not repudiate our duty in the archipelago. We will not abandon our opportunity in the Orient. We will not renounce our part in the mission of our race, trustee, under God, of the civilization of the world. And we will move forward to our work ... with gratitude ... and thanksgiving to Almighty God that He has marked us as His chosen people, henceforth to lead in the regeneration of the world....

Our largest trade henceforth must be with Asia. The Pacific is our ocean.... And the Pacific is the ocean of the commerce of the future.... The power that rules the Pacific, therefore, is the power that rules the world. And, with the Philippines, that power is and will forever be the American Republic.

Source: Senator Albert J. Beveridge. Speech to 56th Congress, *Congressional Record*. 1900.

7 A) What part of the world does this quote refer to? How did America expand their influence in this part of the world?

7 B) According to Brooks Adams (#6) & Senator Beveridge (#7), what is the role of trade and commerce in American Imperialism?