Spanish American War

1. The Coming of War
2. The Cuban Rebellion Begins
3. In 1868 Cuban rebels declared independence and launched a guerrilla war against Spanish authorities.
4. By the early 1890’s, the U.S. and Cuba had been closely linked economically.
5. U.S. invested $50 million in Cuba’s plantations, mines and railroads.
6. The U.S. imposed a new sugar tariff on Cuba’s imports which devastated their economy resulting in a new rebellion in February 1895.
7. Rebels seized control of eastern Cuba, declared independence, and formally established the Republic of Cuba in September 1895.
8. America Supports Cuba
9. The New York Journal and the New York World swayed Americans in the rebel favor through exaggerated stories, known as yellow journalism, about the mistreatment of Cubans (perpetrated by the Spanish).
10. Rebels destroyed American property, creating an economic incentive for intervention.
11. Spain’s General Weyler herded rebels into reconcentration camps to prevent villagers from helping the rebels.
12. Call for War
13. Spain removed Weyler from office and offered the Cubans autonomy, but only if Cuba remained part of the Spanish Empire.
14. In January 1898, the Spanish loyalists rioted in Havana causing McKinley to send the USS Maine to Havana to protect Americans.