

American Expansion Talk Show Activity

Background: European nations like Great Britain and France already had empires. The 13 colonies that became the United States had once been part of the British Empire. In the late 1800's, the United States set out to build its own empire. People realized that America had become a powerful nation. It was the world's largest producer of steel and oil, and it had more miles of railroad than any other country. The United States had already settled all of the land between the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. They are now going to set their sites on land outside of the continental United States.

Key Terms:

Imperialism: When a stronger nation controls a weaker one.

Annex: To add or take possession of a smaller country.

Isolationism: A person or country that wants to stay out of the political affairs of other countries.

Protectorate: A country that is partly controlled or protected by more powerful country.

Sphere of Influence:

Directions: Using **Chapter 16 and the Imperialism packets** you are going to be creating an educational talk show. Each talk show should include the information required as well as images to enhance the show. The following will be the topics of focus:

- Hawaii/Alaska
- Spanish American War
- Relations with China & Japan
- The Panama Canal and the Roosevelt Corollary

Each group will have a different set of information that they are required to provide to the class.

Group #1: Taking Control of Hawaii: Your talk show must contain the following information/items.

- A map of Hawaii in relation to the United States (To show the audience)
- Information about Queen Liliuokalani (image required): I would recommend making her a guest.
- Define the term **annexation**
- Describe why the United States wanted to take control of Hawaii and how they were able to take control of Hawaii. (Interview a member of congress)
- Tell when Hawaii officially became a state: Host should provide this information (Requires research)
- Give your personal opinion as to whether or not the United States should have taken control of Hawaii. (Explain your answer to the audience)

Purchase of Alaska: Your talk show must contain the following information/items.

- A map of Alaska in relation to the United States (To show the audience)
- Identify who William Seward was: I would recommend making him a guest.
- Describe how the United States was able to gain the territory of Alaska
- Explain Seward's Folly
- Tell when Alaska officially became a state (Requires research)
- Give your personal opinion as to whether or not you believe purchasing Alaska was a good idea. (Explain your answer)

Group # 2: The Spanish American War: Your talk show must contain the following information/items.

- Describe the relationship between Cuba and Spain
- A map of Caribbean in relation to the United States to show the audience
- Define what Yellow Journalism was and what role it played in the United States getting involved in the conflict between Spain and Cuba
- Describe what happened to the USS Maine
- Where was the Spanish America War fought?
- Identify what happened at San Juan Hill & Manila Bay
- Identify what the United States gained from defeating Spain
- In your opinion, should the United States have gone to war with Spain? (Explain)

Group #3: Panama Canal/Roosevelt Corollary: Your talk show must contain the following information/items.

- Map of where the Panama Canal is located to show the audience
- Describe why there was a need to have the Panama Canal built
- Define the term Isthmus
- What role did the United States play in having the canal built?
- Describe what building the canal entailed (meaning: What did the workers do in order to build the canal?)
- When did the canal officially open and who had control of the canal.
- Describe what the Roosevelt Corollary was: Include the quote "Speak softly and carry a big stick"

Group #4: Japan/China Your talk show must contain the following information/items.

- Map of Japan and China in relation to the United States (To show the audience)
- What role did Matthew Perry play in opening up trade with Japan? (Good person to interview)
- What role did Pearl Harbor play in the United State's plan to trade with Japan?
- Describe what the Open Door Policy was and why Secretary of State John Hay proposed it. (Good person to interview)
- How did many Chinese people feel about China trading with the United States and other western nations?
- Describe what a sphere of influence is

Reflective thoughts: After all of the talk shows are completed, answer the following questions.

Question #1: In your opinion, should the United States be the world's police? If yes, why yes. If no, why no

Question #2: In the late 1800's and early 1900's, do you think the United States would have suffered as a nation had they **NOT** taken over Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Alaska, and other territories? Explain your answer

Question #3: Is it ever okay for a larger nation to control a weaker nation? Explain your answer

Question #4: Some Americans wanted the United States to be isolationist. Do you think America could have a policy of isolationism in today's society? Explain your answer.

LET'S TALK ABOUT America Expanding Overseas

DIRECTIONS: Your group is going to produce a talk show. Yes, it's going to be fun!

Create a format, decide on your guests, pick your roles, and pick your segment format. ***Then, make sure you include all the information from your worksheet into the questions and answers or segments you plan for your show.***

Here's what your group should do:

1. Brainstorm some talk show format ideas (Oprah, Ellen, Martha Stewart, Jay Leno, David Letterman, The View, etc.)
2. Once you have a format, decide on your guests. (Example: For Panama you might have Teddy Roosevelt, a canal worker, Colombian President, or maybe a doctor who specializes in the care of malaria and yellow fever and of course **the host**.)
3. Decide who will play what roles in your talk show presentation. One person can play two roles if necessary.
4. Now you can get creative and choose your segment formats: for example: all guests could just come on and sit on chairs and answer questions from the host **OR** some can do the Q/A format and one of the guests could do an audience participation game **OR** maybe there could be a musical guest on your show, like a Hawaiian singer, and the song tells about Queen Liliuokalani and the American revolt in Hawaii **OR** you could give out some info in the monologue that the host does to start the show **OR** you could have all the guests introduced by an announcer and then have an open discussion like on "The View."
5. **NOW**, the most important part: Write the script with the Q/A, discussions, song lyrics, host's monologue, etc. (you may read from a script) Include as much info from your worksheet as you can!
6. No costumes or props are required, but they might be nice enhancements. **JUST** the facts and the creative way you present them is required.

HAVE FUN AND REMEMBER THE CLASS IS LISTENING AND LEARNING FROM YOU...