

Lesson Creation for Legion of Valor Museum Project

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Topic:

The Battle for San Juan Hill: Santiago, Cuba, July 1, 1898

Abstract:

In this lesson, students, working individually, with partners or small groups, will use various websites to investigate the role Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders played during the Spanish-American War. The student activities are independent of one another and do not need to be completed in order or even by all students. Each activity culminates in a student created product.

Students will read accounts of cavalry and infantry soldiers, through the documents on the Legion of Valor website and other internet sites. It is to be noted that Medals of Honor were presented to many of the participants in the Battle for San Juan Hill.

Grade Level:

11

Time to Complete: 4 to 8 hours

Standard(s) Covered:

- 11.4 Students trace the rise of the United States to its role as a world power in the twentieth century.
2. Describe the Spanish-American War and U.S. expansion in the South Pacific

Major Objective(s):

The major objective of this lesson is to help students to understand that volunteers played a major role in the Spanish-American War. Volunteer regiments, like the Rough Riders, fought bravely and suffered great losses even though they did not always receive respect. Without the volunteer regiments, the outcome of the war could have been different. Also, students also need to be made aware of the volunteer soldiers that received the Medal of Honor for bravery.

Major Points To Teach:

- In 1897, Theodore Roosevelt was already a well known national figure, hero of the frontier, vigorous patriot, champion of American values, and most importantly, chief spokesman for an aggressive, expansionist American foreign policy.
- Appointed Assistant Secretary of the Navy, by President McKinley, Roosevelt oversaw the expansion and modernization of the Navy that resulted in Dewey's overpowering advantage at Manila
- Determined to serve, not merely direct, he resigned from the Navy Dept. to organize and lead a crack regiment of volunteers for the Cuban invasion. Formally named the 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry, they quickly became known as Teddy's Rough Riders.
- As soon as word spread that the colorful Roosevelt was looking for volunteers, the War office was swamped with requests to serve. 23,000 applied to ride with Teddy, roughly 2,000 were accepted. The unit Roosevelt assembled was unlike anything the Army had seen before, or since. They came from far and wide, Princeton football players, full blooded Pawnee Indians, aristocratic English dandies, trail wise cowboys, polo players, and Rhodes Scholars. Drawn from every state and social strata, the prototypical Rough Rider was equal parts cowboy and soldier, men who could out ride and out fight the Spanish every day of the week. Traditional military experience was helpful, but not required.
- The morning of July 1, 1898, found the Rough Riders within sight of the hills that defended Santiago. Assigned the task of capturing the heavily armed high ground, Teddy assembled his troops for what he would later call, "the great day of my life". After a brief bombardment, the 1st American Volunteer Cavalry began its assault. The hill was steep, and covered in dense underbrush. Sniper bullets whirled around the men, crashing into Rough Riders to Teddy's right and left. Artillery burst all around. At times the advance hesitated, but Teddy led them on. "Forward March", he yelled above the crash of battle, and the Rough Riders surged forward. With Teddy at the head, the Rough Riders at last gained

the top of the hill, San Juan Hill. Not once, but twice, Teddy led his men along the ridge to root out the Spanish units.

- The battle for Santiago was the last major conflict of the Cuba campaign. Together with the many other troops of the American force, Teddy and the Rough Riders forced the surrender of the Santiago garrison, and the collapse of Spanish opposition on the island.

Suggested Strategies:

- Students will be exposed through the three modalities through classroom discussion of the topic, through the use of visuals by using the television or video projector and the researching of assigned internet sites and note taking on their laptops.
- Students will be able to participate throughout the lesson through discussion as a class, individually and in their groups. Since this is a web based activity, the lesson will also be hands on with the students actively participating using their textbooks and the internet.
- Throughout the lesson, questioning will occur and the students will be given the opportunity to express themselves allowing the teacher to monitor their grasp of the material presented.

Practices:

Student Activity 1:

Design and create a poster, advertising for recruitment of volunteers to serve with Teddy Roosevelt in the 1st Volunteer Cavalry Regiment.

- Begin by drawing, or you may use a computer drawing program and scanned pictures.
- Create or find pictures of doctors, soldiers to use as examples.
- Write descriptions for the pictures (be sure to give details) and incorporate quotes from Teddy Roosevelt encouraging volunteers to lend support.
- Design an eye-catching slogan.
- Make as historically accurate as possible.

Student Activity 2:

Create a historical newspaper front page, from the time period, which details the awarding of the Medal of Honor to Lt. Col. Teddy Roosevelt, and the other men at San Juan Hill that received it.

- Using the descriptions provided by the documents on the Legion of Valor site and other sources, write a newspaper story detailing the awarding of the Medal of Honor to the Rough Riders. Using a sheet of paper mock up the front page of a 1898 era newspaper, including the Banner: name of paper, date, city published; Headline
- Try to make the newspaper as realistic looking as possible.

Student Activity 3:

Write a report that details the Battle for San Juan Hill.

- Research the battle and write a report that would have appeared in a 1898 era publication.
- The report should be 1-2 pages long and include pictures.
- It should tell something about the Rough Riders, especially Lt. Col. Roosevelt, that won the Medal of Honor.
- When you have edited and rewritten it, turn it in to your teacher in the form that he or she has requested.

RESOURCES:

Legion of Valor Archives Materials:

The names listed below are the San Juan veterans that received the Medal of Honor and documents relating to receiving this honor as well as military records can be found at the links listed in the Legion of Valor Archives.

- BAKER, EDWARD L., JR. Rank and organization: Sergeant Major, 10th U.S. Cavalry. Place and date: At Santiago, Cuba, 1 July 1898. Entered service at: _____. Birth: Laramie County, Wyo. Date of issue: 3 July 1902. Citation: Left cover and, under fire, rescued a wounded comrade from drowning.
<http://lovarchive.fcoe.net/weblink/index.asp?DocumentID=7824&FolderID=3843&SearchHandle=0&DocViewType=ShowImage&LeftPaneType=Hidden&dbid=0&page=1>
- BROOKIN, OSCAR Rank and organization: Private, Company C, 17th U.S. Infantry. Place and date: At El Caney, Cuba, 1 July 1898. Entered service at: Green County, Ohio. Birth: Byron, Wis. Date of issue: 21 June 1899. Citation: Gallantly assisted in the rescue of the wounded from in front of the lines and under heavy fire from the enemy.
<http://lovarchive.fcoe.net/weblink/index.asp?DocumentID=7758&FolderID=3843&SearchHandle=0&DocViewType=ShowImage&LeftPaneType=Hidden&dbid=0&page=1>
- BUZZARD, ULYSSES G. Rank and organization: Corporal, Company C, 17th U.S. Infantry. Place and date: At El Caney, Cuba, 1 July 1898. Entered service at: _____. Birth: Armstrong, Pa. Date of issue: 24 June 1899. Citation: Gallantly assisted in the rescue of the wounded from in front of the lines and under heavy fire from the enemy.
<http://lovarchive.fcoe.net/weblink/index.asp?DocumentID=8216&FolderID=3843&SearchHandle=0&DocViewType=ShowImage&LeftPaneType=Hidden&dbid=0&page=1>
- FOURNIA, FRANK O. Rank and organization: Private, Company H, 21st U.S. Infantry. Place and date: At Santiago, Cuba, 1 July 1898. Entered service at: Plattsburg, N.Y. Birth: Rome, N.Y. Date of issue: 22 June 1899. Citation: Gallantly assisted in the rescue of the wounded from in front of the lines and while under heavy fire of the enemy.
<http://lovarchive.fcoe.net/weblink/index.asp?DocumentID=8011&FolderID=3843&SearchHandle=0&DocViewType=ShowImage&LeftPaneType=Hidden&dbid=0&page=1>
- GRAVES, THOMAS J. Rank and organization: Private, Company C, 17th U.S. Infantry. Place and date: At El Caney, Cuba, 1 July 1898. Entered service at: Millville, Ind. Birth: Milton, Ind. Date of issue: 22 June 1899. Citation: Gallantly assisted in the rescue of the wounded from in front of the lines and under heavy fire from the enemy.
<http://lovarchive.fcoe.net/weblink/index.asp?DocumentID=8140&FolderID=3843&SearchHandle=0&DocViewType=ShowImage&LeftPaneType=Hidden&dbid=0&page=1>
- HARDAWAY, BENJAMIN F. Rank and organization: First Lieutenant, 17th U.S. Infantry. Place and date: At El Caney, Cuba, 1 July 1898. Entered service at: _____. Birth: Benleyville, Ky. Date of issue: 21 June 1899. Citation: Gallantly assisted in the rescue of the wounded from in front of the lines and under heavy fire from the enemy.
<http://lovarchive.fcoe.net/weblink/index.asp?DocumentID=8760&FolderID=3843&SearchHandle=0&DocViewType=ShowImage&LeftPaneType=Hidden&dbid=0&page=1>
- KELLER, WILLIAM Rank and organization: Private, Company F, 10th U.S. Infantry. Place and date: At Santiago de Cuba, 1 July 1898. Entered service at: Buffalo, N.Y. Birth: Buffalo, N.Y. Date of issue: 22 June 1899. Citation: Gallantly assisted in the rescue of the wounded from in front of the lines and under heavy fire of the enemy.
<http://lovarchive.fcoe.net/weblink/index.asp?DocumentID=8553&FolderID=3843&SearchHandle=0&DocViewType=ShowImage&LeftPaneType=Hidden&dbid=0&page=1>

- KELLY, THOMAS Rank and organization: Private, Company H, 21st U.S. Infantry. Place and date: At Santiago de Cuba, 1 July 1898. Entered service at: New York, N.Y. Birth: Ireland. Date of issue: 22 June 1899. Citation: Gallantly assisted in the rescue of the wounded from in front of the lines and while under heavy fire from the enemy.
<http://lovarchive.fcoe.net/weblink/index.asp?DocumentID=8561&FolderID=3843&SearchHandle=0&DocViewType=ShowImage&LeftPaneType=Hidden&dbid=0&page=1>
- NASH, JAMES J. Rank and organization: Private, Company F, 10th U.S. Infantry. Place and date: At Santiago, Cuba, 1 July 1898. Entered service at: Louisville, Ky. Birth: Louisville, Ky. Date of issue: 22 June 1899. Citation: Gallantly assisted in the rescue of the wounded from in front of the lines and under heavy fire from the enemy.
<http://lovarchive.fcoe.net/weblink/index.asp?DocumentID=8425&FolderID=3843&SearchHandle=0&DocViewType=ShowImage&LeftPaneType=Hidden&dbid=0&page=1>
- NEE, GEORGE H. Rank and organization: Private, Company H, 21st U.S. Infantry. Place and date: At Santiago, Cuba, 1 July 1898. Entered service at: Boston, Mass. Birth: Boston, Mass. Date of issue: 22 June 1899. Citation: Gallantly assisted in the rescue of the wounded from in front of the lines and under heavy fire from the enemy.
<http://lovarchive.fcoe.net/weblink/index.asp?DocumentID=6338&FolderID=3843&SearchHandle=0&DocViewType=ShowImage&LeftPaneType=Hidden&dbid=0&page=1>
- PFISTERER, HERMAN Rank and organization: Musician, Company H, 21st U.S. Infantry. Place and date: At Santiago, Cuba, 1 July 1898. Entered service at New York, N.Y. Birth: Brooklyn, N.Y. Date of issue: 22 June 1899 Citation: Gallantly assisted in the rescue of the wounded from in front of the lines and under heavy fire from the enemy.
<http://lovarchive.fcoe.net/weblink/index.asp?DocumentID=8259&FolderID=3843&SearchHandle=0&DocViewType=ShowImage&LeftPaneType=Hidden&dbid=0&page=1>
- POLOND, ALFRED Rank and organization: Private, Company F, 10th U.S. Infantry. Place and date: At Santiago, Cuba, 1 July 1898. Entered service at: Lapeer, Mich. Birth: Lapeer, Mich. Date of issue: 22 June 1899. Citation: Gallantly assisted in the rescue of the wounded from in front of the lines and while under heavy fire of the enemy.
<http://lovarchive.fcoe.net/weblink/index.asp?DocumentID=8278&FolderID=3843&SearchHandle=0&DocViewType=ShowImage&LeftPaneType=Hidden&dbid=0&page=1>
- QUINN, ALEXANDER M. Rank and organization: Sergeant, Company A, 13th U.S. Infantry. Place and date: At Santiago, Cuba, 1 July 1898. Entered service at: Philadelphia, Pa. Birth: Passaic, N.J. Date of issue: 22 June 1899. Citation: Gallantly assisted in the rescue of the wounded from in front of the lines and under heavy fire from the enemy.
<http://lovarchive.fcoe.net/weblink/index.asp?DocumentID=8800&FolderID=3843&SearchHandle=0&DocViewType=ShowImage&LeftPaneType=Hidden&dbid=0&page=1>
- RESSLER, NORMAN W. Rank and organization: Corporal, Company D, 17th U.S. Infantry. Place and date: At El Caney, Cuba, 1 July 1898. Entered service at: Dalmatia, Pa. Birth: Dalmatia, Pa. Date of issue: 21 August 1899. Citation: Gallantly assisted in the rescue of the wounded from in front of the lines and under heavy fire of the enemy.
<http://lovarchive.fcoe.net/weblink/index.asp?DocumentID=8858&FolderID=3843&SearchHandle=0&DocViewType=ShowImage&LeftPaneType=Hidden&dbid=0&page=1>
- SHEPHERD, WARREN J. Rank and organization: Corporal, Company D, 17th U.S. Infantry.

Place and date: At El Caney, Cuba, 1 July 1898. Entered service at: Westover, Pa. Birth: Cherry Tree, Pa. Date of issue: 21 August 1899. citation. Gallantly assisted in the rescue of the wounded from in front of the lines under heavy fire from the enemy.
<http://lovarchive.fcoe.net/weblink/index.asp?DocumentID=6749&FolderID=3843&SearchHandle=0&DocViewType=ShowImage&LeftPaneType=Hidden&dbid=0&page=1>

Internet Links:

Maps of the Spanish American War

This site provides maps of the major battles that took place during the Spanish-American War.
<http://www.dean.usma.edu/history/dhistorymaps/SAW/SAWToC.htm>

Discover the First American Heroes of the Twentieth Century

Turner Network Television's story of Theodore Roosevelt and the Rough Riders of the Spanish-American War.
<http://alt.tnt.tv/movies/tntoriginals/roughriders/home.html>

The Rough Riders by Theodore Roosevelt

Theodore Roosevelt's own account of the First United States Volunteer Cavalry
<http://www.bartleby.com/51/>

Spanish-American War

Guide devoted to the 1898 conflict. Includes synopses of major battles, listings of burials and regimental casualties, and articles about cultural and social aspects of the war. Numerous images.
<http://www.spanishamericanwar.com/>