

## Attachment A: "Remember the Maine!"

Directions: The explosion on the USS Maine is considered the trigger that started the Spanish American War. We are still not absolutely sure what really happened. Your mission is to review the documents and draw some logical conclusions about what happened and how Americans reacted individually and as a nation.

Your group has several primary documents concerning this incident — one from a textbook and others that are letters and other personal accounts. Each student in the group should read one of the accounts. Once you have read your document, answer the following questions as best you can, using only the information from *your* document. You may not have enough information to answer some of the questions.

After everyone in your group is finished, compare your information with other group members. Then write a *group* version of what you think happened to the USS Maine and the events that followed. Try to leave out any *opinions*; draw conclusions based only on *facts*.

1. What happened to the USS Maine?

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2. Why was the Maine in the Havana harbor?

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3. Who was the commander of the Maine? How did he react to the explosion? What directions did he give his men?

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4. On what part of the ship did the explosion occur?

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5. When did the explosion take place?

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6. What was the condition of the ship after the explosion?

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7. How many men were killed and injured in the explosion? How many of the survivors were officers?

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8. How were the survivors rescued after the incident? Where were they taken to safety?

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9. What were some possible explanations for the explosion?

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10. How did the American public respond to this incident?

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11. How did the press respond?

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12. How did President McKinley respond?

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13. What information did you find regarding the feelings of Americans toward the Spanish? Towards the Cubans?

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