

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

# Spanish-American War: Yellow Journalism Activity

Learning Target: Identify events that escalated the conflict between the United States and Spain

Yellow Journalism – Reporting in newspapers and magazines that exaggerates the news in order to make it more exciting.

Near the end of the 19th Century *yellow journalism* became a very common practice in the American press. Ultimately, yellow journalism would be one of the quintessential reasons why the US got involved in what eventually became known as the Spanish-American War.

**William Randolph Hearst & Joseph Pulitzer** (two of the leading newspaper publishers) really led the inflammatory rhetoric against the Spanish during this period. Imagine you are a modern day Hearst or Pulitzer & write an article in the yellow journalist style about a modern day issue (of your choice).

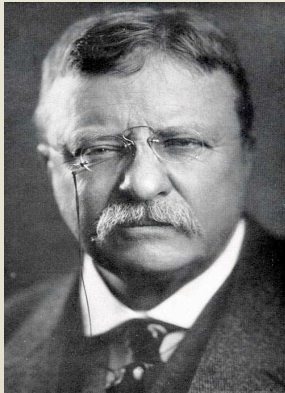
### Criteria:

- ✓ *Title of newspaper/magazine* (doesn't have to be real)
- ✓ *Your Headline*
- ✓ *Picture or Political Cartoon* (Hand drawn)
- ✓ *Text of your article*

### Possible Topics:

- ★ U.S.S. Maine Explodes
- ★ Roosevelt and Rough Riders defeat Spanish at San Juan Hill

Keep in mind, you're trying to embellish and use yellow journalism to **SELL YOUR PAPER!** Make the story **factual** but bend the truth, this is exactly what yellow journalism is all about!



**\$50,000 REWARD.—WHO DESTROYED THE MAINE?—\$50,000 REWARD.**

EDITION FOR GREATER NEW YORK  
**NEW YORK JOURNAL**  
AND ADVERTISER

**DESTRUCTION OF THE WAR SHIP MAINE WAS THE WORK OF AN ENEMY.**

<p><b>\$50,000!</b> <b>\$50,000 REWARD!</b> For the Detection of the Perpetrator of the Maine Outrage!</p>	<p>Assistant Secretary Roosevelt Convinced the Explosion of the War Ship Was Not an Accident.</p> <p>The Journal Offers \$50,000 Reward for the Conviction of the Criminals Who Sent 248 American Sailors to Their Death. Naval Officers Unanimous That the Ship Was Destroyed on Purpose.</p>	<p><b>\$50,000!</b> <b>\$50,000 REWARD!</b> For the Detection of the Perpetrator of the Maine Outrage!</p>
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**NAVAL OFFICERS THINK THE MAINE WAS DESTROYED BY A SPANISH MINE.**

Hidden Mine or a Sunken Torpedo Believed to Have Been the Weapon Used Against the American Man-of-War—Officers and Men Tell Thrilling Stories of Being Blown into the Air Amid a Mass of Shattered Steel and Exploding Shells—Survivors Brought to Key West Scout the Idea of Accident—Spanish Officials Protest Too Much—Our Cabinet Orders a Searching Inquiry—Journal Sends Divers to Havana to Report Upon the Condition of the Wreck.

Was the Vessel Anchored Over a Mine?

BY CAPTAIN E. L. SKIDDEE, U. S. N.

(Copyrighted in the interest of the Journal at New York, which would be the proper place to see our own defense in case of war.)

Assistant Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt says he is convinced that the destruction of the Maine in Havana Harbor was not an accident. The Journal offers a reward of \$50,000 for exclusive evidence that will convict the person, persons or Government criminally responsible for the destruction of the American battleship and the death of 258 of its crew.

The suspicion that the Maine was deliberately blown up grows stronger every hour. Not a single fact as the secretary has been produced.

Captain Sigbee, of the Maine, and Consul-General Lee both urge that public opinion be suspended until they have completed their investigations.

They are taking the course of useful men who are convinced that there has been treachery.

Washington reports very little that Captain Sigbee had feared some such event as a hidden mine. The English cipher code was used all day yesterday by several officers in talking instead of the usual American code.

