Where’s Cuba?

- Cuba is located 90 miles south of Florida.
Spanish Rule

- Cuba was one of Spain’s last few possessions in the New World.
- The people of Cuba wanted freedom and complained because they did not have independence.
- The Spanish treated the Cubans cruelly to stop the Cubans from rebelling.
- Americans saw this cruelty and wanted to help the Cubans.
“Remember the Maine”

- The U.S. government decided to send the battleship Maine to Cuba to protect the Americans living there.
- Suddenly, the U.S. got word that an explosion had sank the Maine.
- No one knows who sank the Maine.
- The Americans of that time blamed the Spanish—even though the Spanish denied doing it.
- Americans started using the slogan, “Remember the Maine!” to get people to want to go to war with Spain.
The USS Maine was destroyed in the harbor of Havana, Cuba, on February 15, 1898.
On April 25, 1898, the U.S. government declared war on Spain. This was known as the Spanish-American War. The purpose of the war was to set Cuba free. The United States sent out its navy to the Philippines where many Spanish ships were docked. They were able to destroy a large portion of the Spanish navy.
The Rough Riders

- In Cuba, Theodore Roosevelt was helping to fight the war on the home front.
- He was leading a group of American men known as the Rough Riders.
- The Rough Riders fought and won the most important battle on land, the Battle of San Juan Hill.
- The war was short, lasting around 4 months.
Rough Riders

Theodore Roosevelt
Results of the Spanish-American War:

1. Cuba received freedom from Spain.
2. U.S. gained several islands:
   - The Philippines—own government; independent
   - Guam—own government; US citizens
   - Puerto Rico—own government; US citizens
3. Other countries now saw the United States as a “world power.”
EQ: How did America change at the Turn of the Century?
Isthmus of Panama (p. 300; 302)

- The Isthmus of Panama is a narrow strip of land that connects North America with South America.
- If ships wanted to get from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, they had to sail all the way around South America.
- In 1878, the French decided to start building a canal to connect the two oceans. **canal**
- A canal is a man-made waterway.
- The French ran into problems and had to stop building the canal.
The U.S. realized the importance of a canal during the Spanish-American War.

They sent out a battleship from California to go help Cuba, but it had to go all the way around South America to get there.

Finally, sixty-eight days later the ship arrived, but by then, the war was nearly over!

In 1902, the United States bought the rights to finish the canal that the French had already started.
Building the Panama Canal.
After a lot of money (300 million dollars) and hard work (40,000 workers), the Panama Canal officially opened in 1914.

The United States had control of the canal and let whatever countries that were not at war with them through.

Over the years, the people of Panama started complaining about the United States having control of the canal.

They felt they should have control over it because it was in their country.

In 1978, the United States graciously signed a treaty that gave Panama control over the Panama Canal starting in the year 2000.
Using the Panama Canal

- Everyone must pay a toll—the toll depends on the size of the ship.
- It takes about 8 hours to get through—that’s a lot better than many weeks to travel around South America!
- [http://player.discoveryeducation.com/index.cfm?guidAssetId=4c51d0ec-70bd-41e8-a8de-23f9398d798e&productcode=US&CFID=879731&CFTOKEN=58281868](http://player.discoveryeducation.com/index.cfm?guidAssetId=4c51d0ec-70bd-41e8-a8de-23f9398d798e&productcode=US&CFID=879731&CFTOKEN=58281868)
VIDEO

http://player.discoveryeducation.com/index.cfm?guidAssetId=7DA63659-26F6-439C-836A-0FA7FA13E3A3&blnFromSearch=1&productcode=US