

High School Ethnic Studies Lesson Plan: The Filipino American War
Lesson Title: The Filipino American War: Unveiling the Hidden History
Grade Level: High School (Grades 10–12)
Subject Area: Ethnic Studies/History
Duration: 2 class periods (50 minutes each)

Learning Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Explain the historical context, causes, and outcomes of the Filipino American War (1899–1902).
 2. Analyze primary and secondary sources to understand multiple perspectives, including Filipino resistance, U.S. imperial ambitions, and the impact on Filipino civilians.
 3. Evaluate how the Filipino American War fits into broader themes of imperialism, colonialism, and resistance in history.
 4. Reflect on how the war connects to Filipino American identity and its relevance in the Ethnic Studies curriculum.
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Essential Questions

- What were the causes and consequences of the Filipino American War?
 - How did U.S. imperialism shape Filipino and Filipino American experiences?
 - Why is the Filipino American War often overlooked in U.S. history, and why does it matter today?
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Materials Needed

- Projector/whiteboard for multimedia presentation
 - Primary source documents (e.g., excerpts from President McKinley's speeches, Emilio Aguinaldo's proclamations)
 - Secondary source readings (articles, textbook excerpts)
 - Political cartoons from the era
 - Graphic organizer for note-taking
 - Reflective journaling prompts
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Lesson Procedures

Day 1: Historical Context and Overview

1. **Warm-Up Activity (10 minutes)**
 - Show a political cartoon from the era depicting U.S. imperialism (e.g., "The White Man's Burden").
 - Ask students:
 - What do you see?
 - What message does this cartoon convey?
 - How might this relate to U.S. involvement in the Philippines?
2. **Mini-Lecture: Setting the Stage (20 minutes)**

- Provide an overview of the Spanish-American War, the Treaty of Paris (1898), and the transition to the Filipino American War.
 - Key points:
 - U.S. acquisition of the Philippines.
 - Filipino resistance under Emilio Aguinaldo.
 - Racialized justifications for imperialism in U.S. discourse.
 - Use maps, images, and timelines for visual support.
- 3. Primary Source Analysis (15 minutes)**
- Divide students into small groups and assign them different documents:
 - Excerpt from Emilio Aguinaldo's declaration of independence.
 - Excerpt from President William McKinley's statement on U.S. intentions in the Philippines.
 - Guiding questions:
 - What is the perspective of the author?
 - How does this document reflect the broader themes of imperialism and resistance?
- 4. Class Discussion (5 minutes)**
- Groups share key findings and insights.
 - Debrief: How do these sources reflect competing perspectives on the war?
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Day 2: The Impact and Legacy

- 1. Quick Recap (5 minutes)**
- Review key points from the previous day.
 - Pose a question: "Why do you think this war is often left out of U.S. history classes?"
- 2. Case Study: Impact on Civilians (15 minutes)**
- Share testimony or accounts from Filipino civilians during the war (e.g., the Balangiga Massacre, forced reconcentration camps).
 - Show photos or artifacts where appropriate (e.g., from the National Museum of the Philippines).
 - Students take notes using a graphic organizer:
 - Impact on Filipino civilians.
 - Role of racial attitudes in U.S. military conduct.
- 3. Reflection Activity: Connecting History to Today (20 minutes)**
- Students read a short article or watch a video about Filipino American identity and its ties to this history.
 - Reflective journaling prompt:
 - How does this history affect the way you view U.S.-Philippines relations today?
 - What connections do you see between the Filipino American War and broader struggles for independence and self-determination?
- 4. Closing Discussion (10 minutes)**
- Facilitate a discussion on the relevance of studying the Filipino American War in Ethnic Studies.

- Encourage students to share their reflections and takeaways.

Assessment

- **Formative:** Participation in discussions and primary source analysis.
- **Summative:**
 - Reflective journal entry on the war's significance and its modern relevance.
 - Optional: Create a political cartoon or infographic illustrating one key theme from the lesson (e.g., resistance, imperialism, overlooked histories).

Extensions and Adaptations

- **For Further Study:** Research the role of Filipino American activists in preserving this history.
- **Cross-Curricular Connection:** Analyze literature or poetry from Filipino authors about colonial experiences.
- **Adapting for Diverse Learners:** Provide simplified primary source texts and visual aids for English language learners.

This lesson plan incorporates critical thinking, historical analysis, and cultural reflection, helping students uncover a significant yet often neglected chapter of history while connecting it to the broader themes of Ethnic Studies.