

## **8SS Newsletter – 11.18.20**

Hello 8th Grade Families,

The students have begun studying Overseas Expansion. International power came to the United States with political strength and industrial growth. As its power increased, the United States moved beyond its territorial limits in search of new markets and colonies. The United States began to compete with other nations for more trade and more land. From this rivalry, the United States rose to take a major role in shaping world affairs.

Students will begin with a discussion of key terms - isolationism, expansionism, imperialism, and spheres of influence. They will then analyze American overseas expansion in the Pacific Ocean and Latin America. This will include a discussion of the Spanish-American War. Students will discuss the positives and negatives of expanding into territory abroad and how this pulled us into World War I.

The students are also transitioning from their Political Science Unit to a unit on Media Literacy. Students will use The News Literacy Project's program "Checkology" to become more media literate so they can sort through the massive amounts of information they see, hear, and read on a daily basis. The goal is for them to be able to distinguish real information from misinformation, opinion, entertainment, and propaganda.

All materials and assignments can be found in either the Social Studies Classroom or the Media Literacy Classroom.

Have a great rest of your week!