

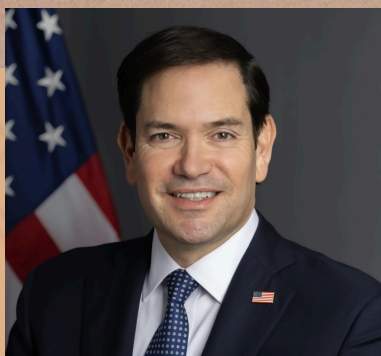


Rough Riders after victory in the Battle of San Juan. Cuba 1898

National Hispanic Heritage Month

A Civics in Real Life Series Honoring Hispanic American Representation Across America

Spotlight 5: The Story of Cuba & the United States



Marco Rubio

National Hispanic Heritage Month recognizes the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States. This spotlight focuses on the story and relationship between Cuba and the United States. Let's learn more about the history of this island, the impact of the Cuban Revolution on the United States, and achievements and contributions of famous Cuban-Americans today.



U.S. - Cuban History: The Highlights

- The island of Cuba sits 90 miles off the coast of Florida
- The Cuban cigar industry began in the United States in the 1830s
- Cuban populations grew in areas such as Ybor City & Key West Florida in the late 1800s
- Cuba played a large role in the experiences of the U.S. during the Spanish-American War (1898)
 - The USS Maine was sunk in the Havana Harbor
 - The U.S. set up a naval blockade in the waters around Cuba
 - Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders were victorious at San Juan Heights/Kettle Hill in Cuba
- After the Spanish-American War and Cuban independence from Spain, the social, economic, and political stories of the United States and Cuba became very intertwined through the Platt Amendment

The Cuban Revolution



- The Cuban Revolution began on January 1, 1959, when rebels led by Fidel Castro seized control of the capital
- The new revolutionary government removed all American influence on Cuba throughout the 1960s and seized American-owned property
- An embargo was enacted by the United States that still remains in effect today
- Thousands of Cuban refugees fled the island and came to the United States, mostly Florida
- By October 1962, nearly 250,000 Cubans had taken refuge in the United States, with that population surpassing one million by the 1990s
- In 1961, President John F. Kennedy started the Cuban Refugee Assistance Program (CRA), which provided health, employment, and educational services to Cuban refugees once they entered the United States. The program ran from 1961 to 1974.



Famous Cuban-Americans

- Pitbull (Armando Christian Perez): Global rapper/singer & businessman
- Andy Garcia: iconic Hollywood star
- Marco Rubio: U.S. Secretary of State and former U.S. Senator from Florida
- Jose Canseco: Major League Baseball MVP, 6x All-Star, 2x World Series Champion

Civics Challenge: Search & Learn:

Pick one of the individuals or historical events listed above to learn more about. Research and craft a small summary that makes connections to both the United States and Cuba. Alternatively, find an additional event or individual to spotlight.