Chapter 12

Becoming a World Power

Activity 1: Look at the graph on page 393 and answer the following questions.

1. By how many millions of dollars did U.S. investment in foreign countries increase between 1897 and 1908?

2. How did the expansionist economic policies depicted here affect U.S. diplomacy?

3. Why do you think such a dramatic increase in foreign investments made the United States feel superior?

Activity 2: Look at the picture on page 394 and answer the following questions.

1. How did Perry’s action affect Japan?

2. What objection did the Japanese have in the early 1850s to trade with the United States?

3. How is the U.S. Navy portrayed in relation to the residents of Yokohama?

4. Do you think the artist show any bias in this representation? Why or why not?

Activity 3: What problems arise when we view our own culture as so superior to others that refuse to accept new ideas from other cultures?
Activity 4: Read the following quote by Walt Whitman, published in 1882:

“Long ere the second centennial arrives, there will be some forty to fifty great States, among them Canada and Cuba...The Pacific will be ours, and the Atlantic mainly ours. There will be daily electric communication with every part of the globe...The individuality of one nation must then, as always lead the world. Can there be any doubt who the leader ought to be?

Discuss how Whitman expresses the expansionist views held by many Americans.

Activity 5: Study the graph on page 409 and answer the following questions.

1. Which country ranked third in total U.S. exports from 1890 to 1910?

2. Why do you think that the vast majority of U.S. exports were going to the United Kingdom?

3. Trade with China increased between 1895 and 1900, but how did it rank in 1910?

4. Why do you think such small number of U.S. exports went China and Japan?

Activity 6: Study the political cartoon on page 413 and answer the following questions.

1. In what part of the world did Roosevelt’s quote originate?

2. How did a “big stick” promote peace?