

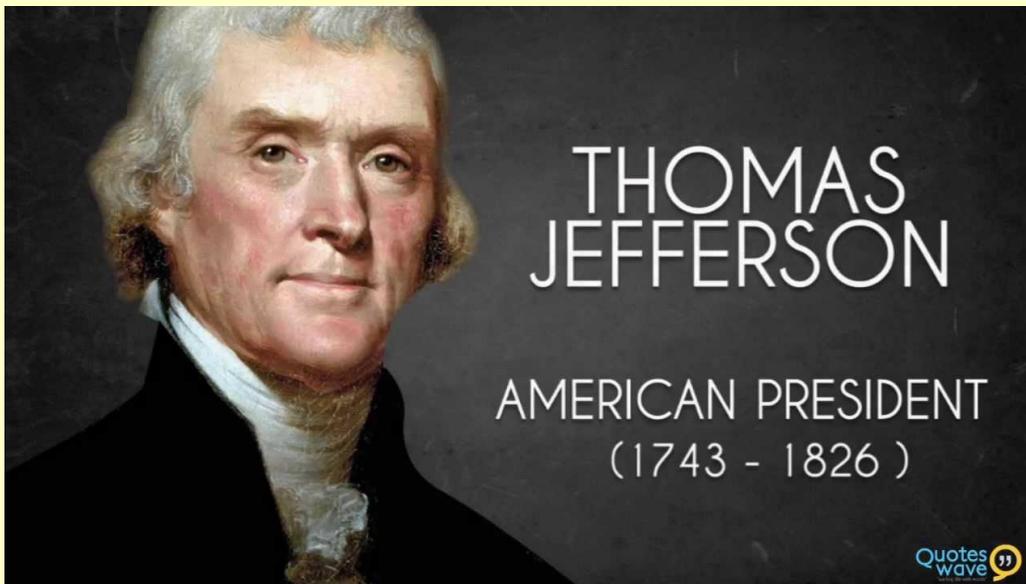
*Hello, my 3eme students in Philippine History  
and Culture!*

Let's see...  
what do you think "Thomasites" refers to?

A boy band?



Admirers of Thomas Jefferson?



Readers of Thomas the Tank Engine?



**Residents of St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands?**



**Followers of St. Thomas Aquinas?**



**NOPE! All wrong!**

Scroll down.

**MORE.**

**SCROLL DOWN SOME MORE.**

## The Thomasites were American teachers

sent to the Philippines by the American government.

In July 1901, three years after the Battle of Manila Bay and only four months after the capture of rebellious Leader Emilio Aguinaldo, the Army transport ship “Thomas” sailed from San Francisco to the Philippines with some 600 U. S. schoolteachers, 170 of them women.



## What were their main objectives?

### 1) To establish a new public school system

*Notes: During the Spanish Colonial period, public elementary education was introduced only in 1863. The Spanish Colonial Period started in 1565 and ended in 1898. So you see, “education for all” was not a priority of the Spaniards.*

*A public school is free for everyone to go to, primary or secondary and its funds come from the government.*

### 2) To teach basic education

### 3) To train Filipino teachers with English as the medium of instruction.

**(CRITICAL THINKING: I want you to stop and think here and imagine that you were Filipino, or French, or Egyptian, or Belgian or of any other nationality. You have your own language, your mother tongue. Imagine going to school and the teacher is teaching you Math, Science, History in a foreign language, in a language which is not your own. In the Philippines (where there are more than 150 languages), English was the language used by the Americans to teach Filipino schoolchildren.**

**My question to you: How would you feel about studying all your subjects in like, for example, Russian? Chinese? Swedish? Imagine the Filipinos having to learn about new topics in English...**

## Some photos of the Thomasites.

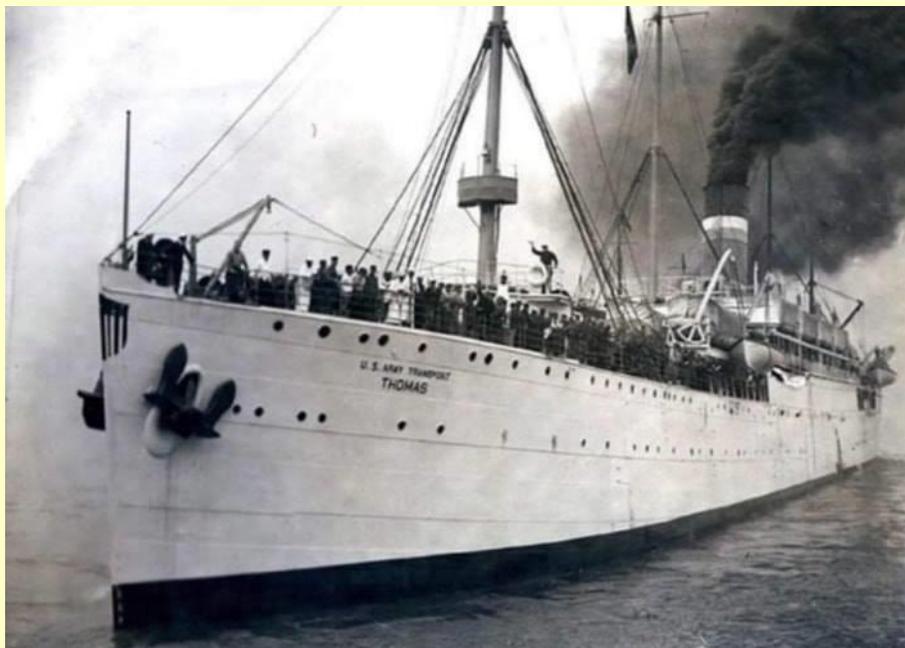


Look at what the Thomasites were wearing in a tropical country!



## SO HERE IT IS. WHY THE NAME 'THOMASITES'?

The name of the **ship** that carried the teachers across the Pacific Ocean to Manila Bay was the “**USS Thomas.**” Therefore, the term “Thomasite” became the name used for all pioneer American teachers in the Philippines even if two groups arrived in the Philippines before the USS Thomas.



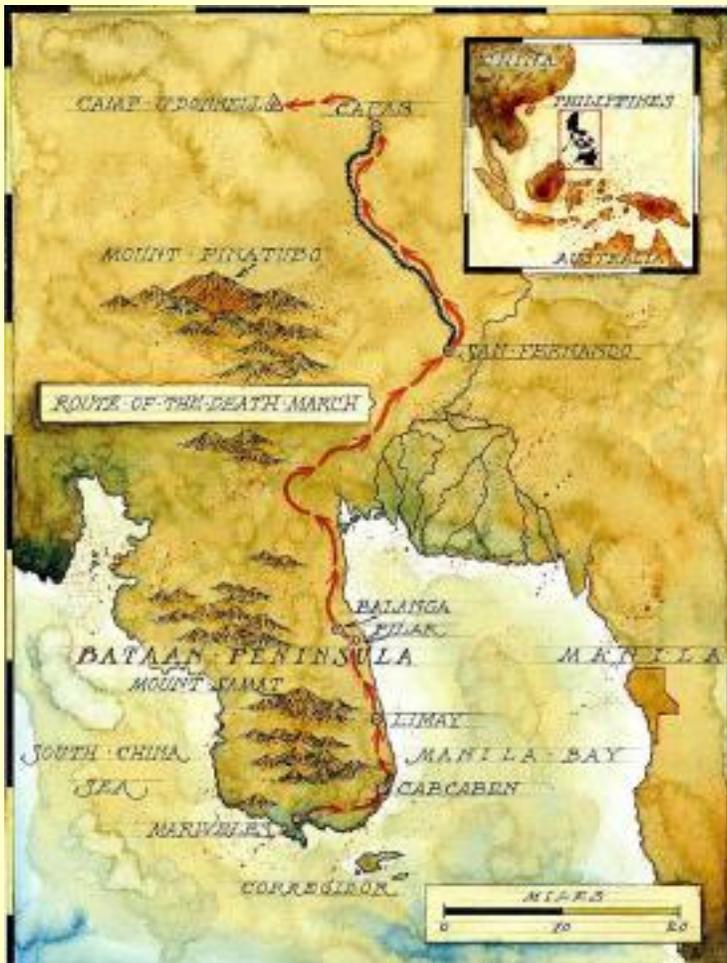
It was also the USS Thomas had brought in the largest group of teachers. Later batches were also called “Thomasites.”

In all, there were about 1,074 Thomasites stationed in the Philippines. The very first batch arrived in August 1901.

- Upon arrival, the teachers stayed at Intramuros before being given initial provincial assignments which included Sorsogon, Masbate, Samar, Zambales, Jolo, Negros, Cebu, Bataan, Batangas, Pangasinan, Tarlac and so on.



As you can see, they were sent all over the archipelago.



- A few weeks before the arrival of the USS Thomas, the U.S. Army soldiers had already begun teaching Filipinos the English language. In effect they were the ones who laid down the foundation of the Philippine public school system. The U.S. Army opened the Philippines' first public school in Corregidor Island.

- The Thomasites taught English, agriculture, reading, grammar, geography, mathematics, general courses, trade courses, housekeeping and household arts, drawing, athletics (baseball, track and field, tennis, and basketball).



## Their legacy

They built elementary schools and learning institutions, such as:

- Philippine Normal School (1901), which was elevated to a full-fledged university in 1992.



### Why "normal"?

Normal school is a learning institution to **train high school graduates to be teachers**. One of the first schools so named, the *École Normale Supérieure* ("Normal Superior School"), was established in Paris in 1794, which was intended to serve as a model for other teacher-training schools.



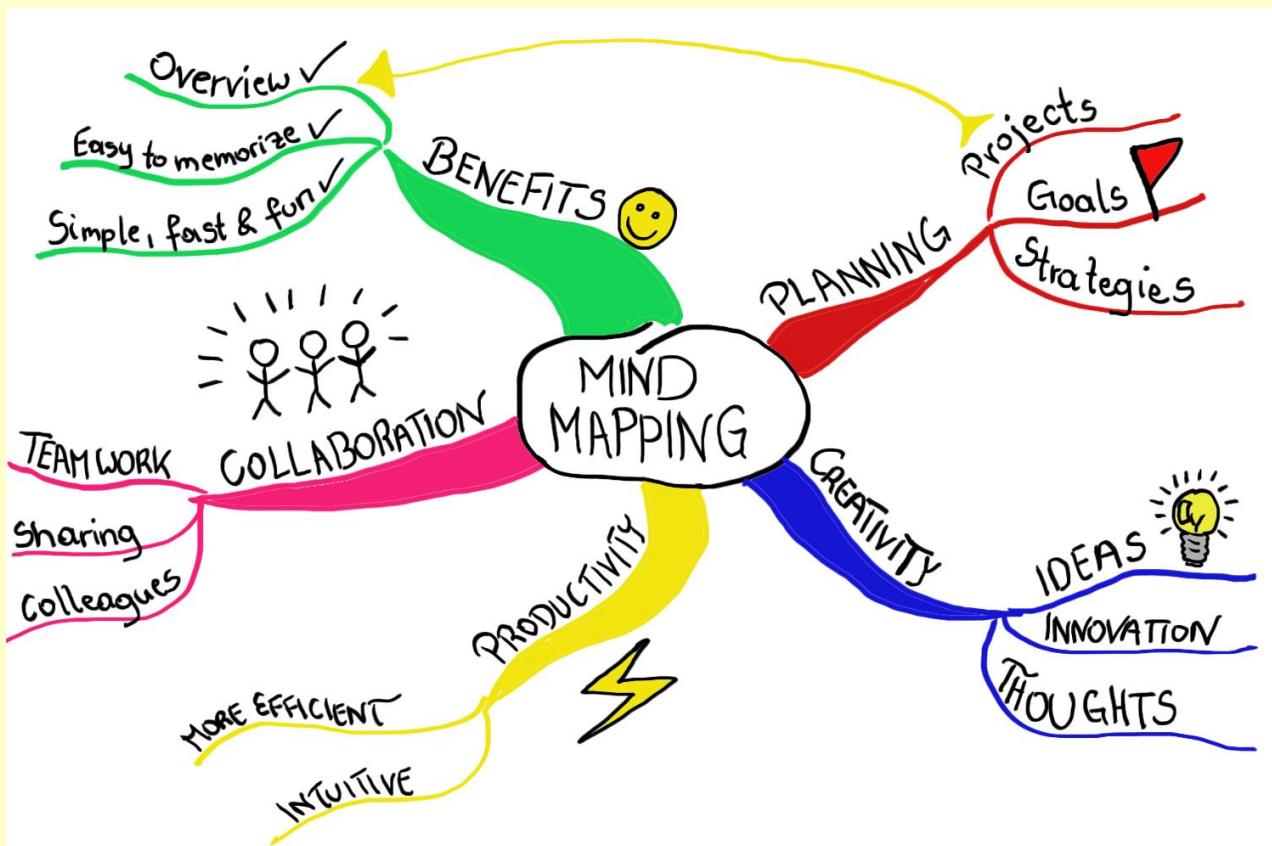
- **PHILIPPINE NORMAL UNIVERSITY** Ayala Boulevard corner Taft Avenue
- The Philippine Normal School, now the **Philippine Normal University** (PNU), was the first institution of higher learning organized under the American regime. Established by Act 74 of the Philippine Commission, it provided among others the training of Filipinos in "the science of teaching".

- Philippine School of Arts and Trades (1901)
- Tarlac High School (1902)
- Quezon National High School (1902)

The Thomasites also reopened the Philippine Nautical School, which was originally established in 1839 under Spain.

- About a hundred of the Thomasites stayed on to live in the Philippines after finishing their teaching assignments.

Now that you've read about some basic information about the Thomasites, it's time to ... make a MIND MAP. Look at this basic mind map.



In the middle you will have Thomasites, right?

Now there are several “branches” of different colors. Now what ‘branches’ can you have which emerge from the center?

One could be “MAIN OBJECTIVES.” Another would be “ARRIVAL IN THE PHILIPPINES”, and another “ORIGIN OF NAME “THOMASITE””, and so on and so forth. EACH BRANCH SHOULD HAVE A TITLE. AND SPECIFIC COLOR.

Other pointers:

- ✓ Use white paper (you can use the back part of used white paper.)
- ✓ Use colors.
- ✓ Spread out the information.
- ✓ Organize the information.
- ✓ Write clearly.
- ✓ Make it NEAT.
- ✓ Make simple drawing as symbols like books, a school building, etc.
- ✓ A Mind Map is a VISUAL learning tool.

**TO BE EMAILED TO ME ONE WEEK AFTER I POST ON PRONOTE.**

Thank you!  
Mme. Po

