

In progress

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT

Lesson Title –McCarthyism: The Political Cartoons of Herb Block

Grade - 9-12

Length of class period – 45 minutes...plan for two class periods

Inquiry – (What essential question are students answering, what problem are they solving, or what decision are they making?)

What was the impact of Joseph McCarthy's search for communists in America on American society?

Objectives (What content and skills do you expect students to learn from this lesson?)

- analyze and explain political cartoons involving the House UnAmerican Activities Committee and Joseph McCarthy
- investigate the impact of the Second Red Scare on American daily life
- identify constitutional rights jeopardized by McCarthyism
- identify evidence used by McCarthy to target possible communists or communist sympathizers in the United States

Materials (What primary sources or local resources are the basis for this lesson?) – (please attach)

Political Cartoons: See subsequent pages, 2-5, attached here taken from <http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/swann/herblock/object.html>

Image Analysis Worksheet: See Page 10

Activities (What will you and your students do during the lesson to promote learning?)

Prep: Run a copy of each cartoon on an overhead for use during class discussion of cartoons.

- Divide students into groups of 3 or 4.
- Hand out one cartoon and have students complete the Image Analysis worksheet. Depending on the level of the student, allow 20 minutes to complete task. Remind students they are to teach their classmates about their cartoon.
- Project a cartoon on the overhead.
- Have each group report to the class their analysis of the cartoon, including its message.
- Repeat for all cartoons.

How will you assess what student learned during this lesson?

Discuss the following after all cartoons have been presented:

- What people did McCarthy find suspicious? Why these people?
- What groups did McCarthy find suspicious? Why?
- What aspects of daily life were affected by the fear of communism in America?

- What constitutional rights were affected by this fear generated by Joseph McCarthy?
- Why were people so willing to believe Joseph McCarthy's accusations?

Connecticut Framework Performance Standards –

- identify various parties and analyze their interest in conflicts from selected historical periods;
- use primary source documents to analyze multiple perspectives.

6/11/41
"IT'S OKAY --- WE'RE HUNTING COMMUNISTS"



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"FIRE!"



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“Say, What Ever Happened To ‘Freedom-From-Fear’?”



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"STAND FAST, MEN --- THEY'RE ARMED WITH MARSHMALLOWS"



Cartoon Analysis Worksheet

Level 1	
Visuals	Words (not all cartoons include words)
1. List the objects or people you see in the cartoon.	1. Identify the cartoon caption and/or title. 2. Locate three words or phrases used by the cartoonist to identify objects or people within the cartoon. 3. Record any important dates or numbers that appear in the cartoon.
Level 2	
Visuals	Words
2. Which of the objects on your list are symbols? 3. What do you think each symbol means?	4. Which words or phrases in the cartoon appear to be the most significant? Why do you think so? 5. List adjectives that describe the emotions portrayed in the cartoon.
Level 3	
A. Describe the action taking place in the cartoon. B. Explain how the words in the cartoon clarify the symbols. C. Explain the message of the cartoon. D. What special interest groups would agree/disagree with the cartoon's message? Why?	

