

Educator Overview:

Political Cartoons: An Artist's Perspective of Current Events

Audience	Grade Levels 6-12	Subject Social Studies The Arts	Topics Civics and Government American History Civil War Reconstruction Visual Arts
Guiding Questions	1. How does an artist's values impact their work?	2. Why does the intended audience matter?	3. How do political cartoons communicate current events?
Background Knowledge	<p>Vocabulary Students Should Know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allegory – A literary or visual device where a story, poem, or picture can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically moral or political. • Bias - prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be unfair. • Caricature - A drawing of a person that is not too exaggerated • Emancipation – the free of people from slavery • Metaphor- a thing regarded as representative or symbolic of something else, can be abstract. • Satirical – The use of humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose or criticize someone <p>Consider other background knowledge your student may benefit from knowing (ex. The American Civil War, Reconstruction)</p>		
Content Topics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Narrative/Slideshow about Thomas Nast 2. Slideshow – Thomas Nast Illustrates Values: Columbia with political cartoons of Columbia, the allegorical moral conscience of the United States 3. Hotspot- Thomas Nast Illustrates Values: Emancipation with the key components of “Emancipation”, a political cartoon from 1864 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Additional Resource Included: Link to the Emancipation Proclamation at the National Archives 4. Slideshow- Thomas Nast’s Intended Audience examines two sets of images that Nast drew, one for a public audience and 		

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	<p>one for his private home</p> <p>5. Hotspot- Thomas Nast Illustrates Current Events explores key components of the political cartoon “Compromise with the South”</p>
Student Engagement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annotation- Draw Your Own Political Cartoon: Students can draw, either digitally or on paper, their own political cartoon based on a current event topic they feel strongly about 2. Annotation- Find a Political Cartoon: Students find a political cartoon either in print or online. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. This requires students to have access to either print magazines or newspapers with political cartoons or online news agencies with political cartoons. b. Depending on the grade level, teachers can pre-curate a selection of political cartoons to choose from 3. Narrative – Memes: Discussion questions around the use of memes as a means of political discourse in the modern era. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Discussion questions can be assigned individually or done as a class b. Additional Resource Included: NPR Podcast “It’s Been a Minute” on “The misunderstood humor of political memes” (17 minutes) 4. Slideshow- Wrap-Up Discussion: Students can answer these questions individually or as a group discussion.
Other Notes	<p>This Resource Kit can be done independently or as a group.</p> <p>The content of this Resource Kit is cross disciplinary with history and art. History and art teachers may wish to coordinate to find out when they may be focusing on drawing, political cartoons, and the Civil War.</p>