

Educator Overview:

The Country's Waiting Game: Thomas Nast and the Months After the 1876 Election

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 can political cartoons be used to understand the aftermath of the 1876 election?	2. What role does compromise play in politics?	3. What role do artists play in politics and elections?
Background Knowledge	Vocabulary Students Should Know: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electoral College – A process of selecting the US President and Vice President. There are 538 electors. • Filibuster – A political procedure where members of a legislative body can delay or prevent a decision by prolonged debate • Reconstruction – The twelve years after the Civil War of rebuilding the United States. 		
Content Topics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Election of 1876 Narrative about the candidates in the 1876 Election and a brief overview of the events. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Additional Resources for providing context about the time period: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>Crash Course</i> Video about Reconstruction (13:58 minutes) ii. Article from The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History about the 1876 Election 2. Using Political Cartoons to Understand the 1876 Election Slideshow: Selection of Thomas Nast political cartoons printed in <i>Harper's Weekly</i> in the weeks and months after the 1876 election. 3. Compromise Narrative: Detailed information about two political cartoons commenting on the Federal Electoral Commission. 4. Victory Slideshow: A selection of Thomas Nast's political cartoons from after the results of the 1876 election are decided. 5. The Artist in Art Slideshow: Featured political cartoons where 		

Educator Overview:

The Country's Waiting Game: Thomas Nast and the Months After the 1876 Election

	<p>Nast has inserted himself into the image.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Additional Resource: Link to a MHHM MDL Resource Kit about Thomas Nast's editorial perspective in political cartoons (6-12 grade)
Student Engagement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Annotation: Discussion questions about the political cartoons in the 1876 election. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion questions can be assigned as a worksheet to be done individually or in a group or used for discussion in the classroom. The discussion questions document is downloadable for printing. Annotation: Students compare and contrast the two political cartoons from the previous Narrative. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Venn Diagram can be assigned as a worksheet to be done individually or in a group or used for discussion in the classroom. The images to compare and contrast are available for download at the bottom of the page. Annotation: Students can draw their own political cartoon either digitally on the MDL platform or a separate piece of paper <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bonus Extension Activity: Share all the political cartoons and discuss which ones are the most influential and why. Bonus Extension Activity (<i>not listed in the MDL Resource Kit</i>)- Students can research why the United States has an electoral college system and make an argument for or against the electoral college system.
Other Notes	<p>The content for the Resource Kit is based on an exhibit on display at Macculloch Hall Historical Museum from October 2024-November 2024.</p> <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, Reconstruction, or elections.</p>