Do You See What I See

Lesson Overview

Overview: In this activity, students will closely examine war posters from the World War II era, make inferences about the colors used, layout and the different situations depicted therein; and offer informed speculations concerning each poster.

Grade Range: 6-8

Objective: After completing this lesson, students will be able to analyze posters and identify ways in which color, layout and content influences people’s feelings.

Time Required: Two class periods of 45 minutes.

Discipline/Subject: Social Studies/Reading

Topic/Subject: Advertising/War, Military

Era: Great Depression/WWII, 1929-1945

Standards

Illinois Learning Standards:

English Language Arts:
3-Write to communicate for a variety of purposes.
5-Use language arts to acquire, assess and communicate information.

Social Science:
16-Understand events, trends, individuals and movements shaping the history of Illinois, the United States and other nations.

Materials

Analysis Tools: Poster Analysis Sheet

PowerPoint Slides:

Poster encouraging purchase of war stamps and bonds to support the war effort, showing faces of Hitler, Mussolini, and Hirohito.
Poster encouraging citizen participation in salvage for the war effort, showing seaplanes and a man welding.

Poster for Thirteenth Naval District, United States Navy, showing a woman talking on the telephone and a globe with ears eavesdropping.

Poster promoting sewing as contribution to the war effort, showing outline of sewing machine with war images.

Poster encouraging civilians to be properly prepared for air raids, showing shovel, ax, fire extinguisher, flashlight, first aid kit, bucket of sand, goggles, and a hose.

Poster encouraging conservation of surplus food for the war effort, showing basket of food.

Poster suggesting careless communication may be harmful to the war effort, showing a letter from a soldier stamped "examined by 42."
Other: Paper, Markers, Colored Pencils.

Library of Congress Items:
Title of Source: “Censored”: Lets censor our conversations about the war
Creator of Source: La: WPA War Service of La.
Date of Creation: Between 1941 and 1943
URL of Source: http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/wpapos:@field(NUMBER+@band(cph+3b49488))

Title of Source: Stamp’em out: Buy U.S. Stamps and bonds.
Creator of Source: Byrne, Thomas A.
Date of Creation: Between 1941 and 1943
URL of Source: http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/wpapos:@field(NUMBER+@band(cph+3b49042))

Title of Source: Are you helping? With salvage.
Creator of Source: So. Calif. Work Projects Administration
Date of Creation: Between 1941 and 1943
URL of Source: http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/wpapos:@field(NUMBER+@band(cph+3b49079))

Title of Source: Keep mum-the world has ears
Creator of Source: Grigware, Edward T.
Date of Creation: Between 1941 and 1943
URL of Source: http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/wpapos:@field(NUMBER+@band(cph+3f05554))

Title of Source: Sew for victory/ Pistchal
Creator of Source: N.Y.C. W.P.A. War Services
Date of Creation: Between 1941 and 1943
URL of Source: http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/wpapos:@field(NUMBER+@band(cph+3f05382))

Title of Source: This is your air raid protection: Get it now
Creator of Source: Pennsylvania: Penna Art WPA
Date of Creation: Between 1941 and 1943
URL of Source: http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/wpapos:@field(NUMBER+@band(cph+3f05680))

Title of Source: Help us preserve food
Creator of Source: Tasker, William
Date of Creation: Between 1941 and 1943
URL of Source: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/cph.3f05601/
Title of Source: Black out means black
Creator of Source: Oakland Ca. W.P.A. Art Program
Date of Creation: Between 1941 and 1943
URL of Source: http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/wpapos:@field(NUMBER+@band(cph+3b49070))

Title of Source: Visibility zero unless you lend your binoculars to the navy: 6 x 30 or 7 x 50 Zeiss or Bousch and Lomb: pack carefully and send to Navy Observatory, Washington D.C.
Creator of Source: N.Y. State W.P.A.
Date of Creation: Between 1941 and 1943
URL of Source: http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/wpapos:@field(NUMBER+@band(cph+3f05359))

### Procedures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure Step #</th>
<th>Resource or Material Used</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Have students look at the PowerPoint of the war time posters using the smartboard.</td>
<td>PowerPoint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Discuss with them the usefulness of said posters and talk with them about the color, layout and topic of each poster. What feelings does each poster invoke on the viewer? Teacher and students will discuss the importance of each poster.</td>
<td>Analysis Tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Students will be divided into groups and given a copy of the Poster Analysis worksheet. Have each group pick one poster to analyze.</td>
<td>Analysis Tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Use one poster as an example with the students to show them how to fill out the poster analysis worksheet.</td>
<td>Analysis Tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Groups will use all of the information acquired to make their own wartime poster.</td>
<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Groups/students will look at and evaluate the finished posters.</td>
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### Evaluation

Student understanding will be evaluated by discussion and reading their responses to the poster analysis worksheet. Also, the students will be using peer evaluation on the completed posters.

**Author Credits:**
K.Meeker
Cumberland Middle School
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**POSTER ANALYSIS**

### First Glance

Looking at the poster, identify

- The title
- What emotions did you feel when you first saw the poster?

### Symbolism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People</th>
<th>What do they symbolize?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Person or character used</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objects</th>
<th>What do they symbolize?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Items used</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colors</th>
<th>What do they symbolize?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colors Used</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### The Message

Are the messages in the poster primarily visual, verbal or both? How?

Who do you think was the intended audience for this poster?

What do you think the creator hoped that people would do after seeing this poster?

### After Viewing

The most effective posters use symbols that are simple, attract your attention and are direct. Is this an effective poster? Why or why not?

List three things that you infer from this poster.

1.

2.

3.
“CENSORED”

EXAMINED BY 42

LET’S CENSOR
OUR CONVERSATION
About the WAR

WPA WAR SERVICES OF LA

Mrs. John Doe
1000 Silence St.
New Orleans, La.
U.S.A.
Stamp 'em Out!

Buy U.S. Stamps and Bonds

T.A. Byrne
W.P.A. War Services of L.A.
SEW
FOR VICTORY
Do You See What I See

This is your AIR RAID PROTECTION

Get it NOW

PENNSYLVANIA STATE COUNCIL OF DEFENSE
CAPITOL BUILDING, HARRISBURG, PA.
help US

Preserve your surplus food... join up now at

Community Food Conservation Inc.

Cooperating with:
- Philadelphia Council of Defense
- Church Organizations
- Garden Club
- Pennsylvania State College Work Projects Administration
- Navy League Service

615 Real Estate Trust Bldg
Pennypacker 5718
Auch C.B. Strowbridge Chairman
BLACKOUT means BLACK

Issued by the Oakland Defense Council
VISIBILITY
ZERO UNLESS
YOU

LEND YOUR BINOCULARS
TO THE NAVY
6x30 OR 7x50 ZEISS OR BAUSCH AND LOMB
PACK CAREFULLY AND SEND TO NAVY OBSERVATORY
WASHINGTON D.C.