

Michelle Snouffer
Teaching American History
Lesson Plan Presentation

My unit plan focuses on the causes of the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence. One of the lessons I chose to implement and the one of which I chose for inclusion on our class's website is a learning experience of political cartoons of the American Revolution. Because political cartoons have such a visual impact and yet take a discerning eye to grasp their message, I wanted to introduce them to my students. Though usually biased, these cartoons give a wonderful picture of the political landscape of any given time and are excellent source materials when taken in context of other documents.

For this project, students will be introduced to several sets of comics. I will show them, using the overhead projector, general newspaper comics and ask them to determine both their messages and what makes them funny. Then we will segue into the political cartoons and discuss the differences between these and newspaper comics (specifically, why are their tones more serious). I will start by showing them recent political cartoons so they will be able to quickly determine present-day symbolism. Students should see recent cartoons first because they should be better aware of the current political climate and will be able to quickly analyze them. They will then be given a series of cartoons from the American Revolution and will be asked to interpret them. As a final assessment, students will be asked to take a short quiz on the cartoon *The Horse America, throwing his Master*. They will also be asked to design their own political cartoons based on a Revolutionary War-era event.

The following websites were used for this assignment They correlate to the scanned images I included in email attachment format:

1. www.indiana.edu/~liblilly/cartoon/images/revere.jpg
2. <http://newdeal.feri.org/classrm/images/snake.gif>
3. www.chicagohs.org/history_through_opposing_lesson_3pdf
4. www.oswego.org/testprep/ss5/b/causerev2li.cfm

