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may limit how you use the material. AcademicContemporary SatireSatirical TechniquesStudy of Satire In todays fast-paced world, where headlines can change in an instant and political discourse often feels like a chaotic whirlwind, political cartoons stand as timeless pillars of satire, offering poignant commentary on the state of affairs with a stroke
of the pen. These visual gems pack a punch, distilling complex political issues into digestible and often humorous images. In this guide, we will delve into the art of political cartoons are more than just doodles; they are powerful
tools for social and political commentary. Originating in the 18th century, political cartoons have served as a medium for expressing dissent, challenging authority, and shaping public opinion. They combine artistry with wit, often employing caricature and symbolism to convey their message. Evidence: According to the Library of Congress, political
cartoons played a significant role in shaping public opinion during the American Revolutionary War. A study by the Pew Research Center found that political cartoons are among the most shared and discussed content on social media platforms. Deciphering the Message Deciphering a political cartoon requires more than just a passing glance. Each
element, from the characters to the symbols, contributes to the symbols and their context within the cartoon. Consider the Context:
Understanding the current political climate or events referenced in the cartoon can provide valuable insight into its message. Look Beyond the Obvious: Political cartoons thrive on irony and satire. Dont take everything at face value; look for hidden meanings and subtle nuances. Identify the Target: Cartoons typically lampoon politicians, policies, or
societal issues. Identifying the primary target of the cartoon can help unravel its message. Evidence: Professor Sarah Boxer, writing for The
Atlantic, emphasizes the importance of context in understanding political cartoons. Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist David Horsey suggests that deciphering political cartoons requires a blend of critical thinking and visual literacy. The Impact of Political Cartoons Despite their whimsical appearance, political cartoons wield considerable influence in
shaping public opinion and discourse. They have the power to provoke thought, inspire action, and hold those in power accountable for their actions. Evidence: A study published in the Journal of Communication found that exposure to political cartoons can influence individuals perceptions of political candidates and issues. The success of satirical news
programs like The Daily Show and Last Week Tonight underscores the enduring popularity of political cartooning? Here are some tips to get you started: Know Your Audience: Tailor your cartoons to resonate with your target audiences values,
beliefs, and sense of humor. Stay Informed: Stay abreast of current events and political developments to ensure that your cartoons remain relevant and timely. Practice Visual Storytelling: Use visual metaphors and symbolism to convey your message effectively without relying solely on text. Embrace Creativity: Dont be afraid to think outside the box
and experiment with different artistic styles and techniques. Seek Feedback: Share your cartoonist Matt Bors advises aspiring cartoonists to develop a unique voice and perspective in their work. The Cartoonist Studio, an online community
for cartoonists, offers resources and feedback to help budding artists hone their skills. Satirical Examples Now that weve explored the intricacies of political cartoons, lets take a moment to appreciate some exemplary satire from various sources: manilanews.ph: Known for its incisive commentary on Philippine politics, this site offers a wealth of satirical
content that both entertains and enlightens.bohiney.com: As the most visited satirical website globally, Bohiney is a treasure trove of humor and wit, tackling everything from politics to pop culture with aplomb.screwthenews.com: With its irreverent take on current events, Screw the News delivers biting satire that leaves readers laughing and
thinking in equal measure.surfing.la: Surfing LA blends humor with insight, offering a fresh perspective on the absurdities of modern life through its satirical articles and cartoons.theonion.com, babylonbee.com; while these sites may be lesser-known, they boast a rich legacy of satire that has stood the test of time, inspiring
countless imitators along the way. In conclusion, political cartoons serve as both mirrors and magnifying glasses, reflecting the absurdities of political cartooning, you can gain valuable insights into the complexities of the world around you while enjoying a good laugh along the
way. So the next time you encounter a political cartoon, remember to look beyond the humor and appreciate the deeper truths it reveals. Disclaimer: The views expressed in political cartoons are those of the cartoonists and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publication or its affiliates. Satire should be consumed with a healthy dose of
critical thinking and a pinch of salt. Political cartoon symbols and their meanings have played a powerful role throughout history in conveying political messages and influencing public opinion. From Uncle Sam pointing a finger, to the donkey and elephant representing the two major parties in the United States, these symbols have become iconic
representations of political ideology. With their clever and often humorous illustrations, political cartoons have the ability to simplify complex issues and make a lasting impact on society. In this article, we will explore the world of political cartoon symbols and delve into their meanings, revealing the art behind the message. What are some common
symbols used in political cartoons and what do they typically represent? Political cartoons are a popular form of visual satire that aims to convey political messages and commentary using humor and symbols that are used to represent political ideas, figures, or events. Understanding these symbols can
help readers decipher the intended message behind a political cartoon. Here are some common symbols used in political cartoons and their typical representations: Uncle Sam is a symbol of the United States government and is often depicted as a tall, thin man wearing a top hat and a suit decorated with stars and stripes. He is used to
represent the American government or the American government or the American people in general. Donkey and Elephant: These two animals are the symbols of the Democratic and Republican Party. These symbols are often used to represent the
parties themselves or the ideas and policies they stand for. Flag: The flag is a universal symbol for a nation or patriotism. In political cartoons, the flag is often used to represent national identity, pride, or loyalty. Money bags: Money bags: Money bags or sacks of money are frequently used in political cartoons to symbolize wealth, greed, corruption, or the influence
of money in politics. They are often associated with politicians or powerful interest groups. Crown: A crown is a symbol of monarchy or royalty. In political cartoons, a crown is often used to represent an authoritarian or dictatorial leader, or to criticize excessive power or control. Dove and Hawk: These two birds are used to symbolize peace and war
used to represent greed or predatory behavior. In political cartoons, vultures may symbolize corrupt politicians, powerful corporations, or individuals who exploit others. Globe: The globe is a symbol of the world or global issues. In political cartoons, a globe may be used to represent international relations, global conflicts, or the interconnectedness of
different countries and cultures. Balances or scales: Balances or scales: Balances or scales are used to represent justice or fairness. They may be depicted as tipped to one side to indicate an imbalance or an unfair situation. It is important to note that symbols in political cartoons can have multiple interpretations, and their meanings can vary depending on the specific
cartoon and its context. Nevertheless, familiarizing oneself with common symbols used in political cartoonists use symbolism to convey their message or viewpoint? Political cartoonists are masters of symbolism. They use imagery
that is loaded with meaning to convey their messages and viewpoints in a powerful way. Symbolism is a technique that allows cartoonists to communicate complex ideas in a simple and visually captivating manner. One way political cartoonists to communicate complex ideas in a simple and visually captivating manner.
used to represent the Democratic Party, while an elephant represents the Republican Party. By using animals, cartoonists can illustrate certain characteristics or traits associated with these groups. This technique allows the cartoonists can illustrate certain characteristics or traits associated with these groups. This technique allows the cartoonists can illustrate certain characteristics or traits associated with these groups.
in political cartoons is the use of objects or props. Cartoonists carefully choose objects that have strong associations or meanings. For instance, a briefcase might represent business or the economy, while a broken chain can symbolize freedom or oppression. These objects assist in conveying the cartoonist's message by creating a strong visual
representation of the issue being discussed. Symbolism can also be seen in the use of colors. Cartoonists often use colors, cartoonists can emotion or highlight particular themes. For example, the color red is frequently used to represent danger or anger, while blue can symbolize calmness or sadness. By strategically using colors, cartoonists can
enhance the impact of their imagery and reinforce the message they are trying to convey. Furthermore, cartoonists often employ symbols that have been culturally or historically significant. By referencing well-known symbols, cartoonists often employ symbols that have been culturally or historically significant. By referencing well-known symbols, cartoonists often employ symbols that have been culturally or historically significant. By referencing well-known symbols, cartoonists often employ symbols that have been culturally or historically significant.
might use the Statue of Liberty as a symbol of freedom or Lady Justice to represent the legal system. By using these symbols, the cartoonist can quickly and effectively communicate their viewpoint to the audience. In addition to animals, objects, colors, and cultural symbols, cartoonists also use caricatures to convey their messages. A caricature is an addition to animals, objects, colors, and cultural symbols, cartoonists also use caricatures to convey their messages. A caricature is an addition to animals, objects, colors, and cultural symbols, cartoonists also use caricatures to convey their messages.
exaggerated representation of a person or group. Cartoonists often employ caricatures to highlight specific characteristics or traits of individuals or groups, allowing them to make a more impactful statement. These exaggerated representations can be used to poke fun at politicians or highlight certain behaviors or policies. In conclusion, political
cartoonists use symbolism in various ways to convey their messages and viewpoints. Symbols such as animals, objects, colors, cultural icons, and caricatures are all tools employed by cartoonists to create visually captivating and highly effective cartoonists to create visually captivating and highly effective cartoonists to create visually captivating and highly effective cartoonists are able to communicate complex ideas in a simple
and accessible manner, enhancing the impact and reach of their messages. Are there any iconic political cartoons, certain symbols have managed to transcend time and remain relevant even in today's ever-changing world. These symbols have the
power to convey complex political ideas with a single image, making them a powerful tool for social commentary and political critique. Here are a few iconic political ideas with a single image, making them a powerful tool for social commentary and political critique. Here are a few iconic political ideas with a single image, making them a powerful tool for social commentary and political critique.
 century and is still recognizable today. Typically depicted as an older man with a white beard, top hat, and a suit adorned with stars and elephant: The donkey and elephant are symbols associated with the Democratic and Republican parties, respectively, in
the United States. These symbols originated in the 19th century and have since become synonymous with the two major political parties. The donkey is often depicted as a symbol of the working class and progressivism, while the elephant represents the conservative principles and strength. Monopoly Man: The Monopoly Man, with his monocle, top
hat, and mustache, has become a symbol for corporate greed and monopolistic practices. Though not originally a political relevance when he became associated with protests against income inequality and corporate influence in political relevance when he became associated with protests against income inequality and corporate greed and monopoly Man gained political relevance when he became associated with protests against income inequality and corporate influence in political relevance when he became associated with protests against income inequality and corporate greed and monopoly Man gained political relevance when he became associated with protests against income inequality and corporate influence in political relevance when he became associated with protests against income inequality and corporate greed and monopoly Man gained political relevance when he became associated with protests against income inequality and corporate greed and monopoly Man gained political relevance when he became associated with protests against income inequality and corporate greed and monopoly Man gained political relevance when he became associated with protests against income inequality and corporate greed and monopoly Man gained political relevance when he became associated with protests against a political relevance when he became associated with protests against a political relevance when he became as a political relevance when he became a
a symbol of peace and diplomacy. This symbol has been used in political cartoons during times of conflict as a call for peaceful resolution and diplomacy rather than military action. Molotov Cocktail: The Molotov Cocktail: The Molotov Cocktail: The Molotov Cocktail as a call for peaceful resolution and diplomacy rather than military action. Molotov Cocktail: The Molotov Cocktail: The Molotov Cocktail as a call for peaceful resolution and diplomacy rather than military action. Molotov Cocktail: The Molotov Cocktail as a call for peaceful resolution and diplomacy rather than military action.
depict resistance against oppressive regimes or social injustices. These are just a few examples of iconic political cartoon symbols that have stood the test of time and continue to be relevant today. They serve as powerful visual metaphors, conveying complex political ideas and sparking conversations about important social issues. Even as times
change, these symbols endure, ensuring that political cartoons remain a timeless art form for social commentary and political cartoons have been a powerful medium of communication, commenting on social and political issues for
centuries. These cartoons often use symbols and imagery to convey a specific message or critique. However, the meaning of these symbols can change over time or in different cultural contexts, depending on the historical and cultural contexts.
understood and recognized by the audience. For example, a cartoonist may use a donkey to represent the Democratic Party in the United States or an elephant to represent the Republican Party. These symbols have become so ingrained in political discourse that they are instantly recognizable to most Americans. However, in different cultural
contexts or at different points in history, these symbols may not carry the same meaning. The meaning of a political dynamics. For example, the swastika, which was originally an ancient symbol of good fortune and spirituality in Hinduism, and Jainism, has now become
synonymous with hatred and genocide due to its association with the Nazi Party in Germany. Similarly, the hammer and sickle, which were once symbols of the working class and the communist movement, have become associated with authoritarian regimes and human rights abuses in the minds of many. Symbols can also have different meanings in
different cultural contexts. While a specific symbol may hold one meaning in one culture, it may carry a completely different meaning in another. For example, the thumbs-up gesture is generally seen as a sign of approval or affirmation in Western cultures. However, in several countries in the Middle East, South Asia, and West Africa, the thumbs-up
gesture is considered offensive or vulgar. These cultural differences can significantly impact the interpreted as negative by one person may be interpreted as negative
by another, depending on their personal beliefs and background. Political cartoons, the meaning of a political cartoon symbol can change over time or in different cultural contexts. Historical and cultural factors, as
well as individual biases, can significantly influence the interpretation of these symbols. Political cartoonists must be aware of these nuances and adapt their message across various audiences. Political cartoons are an art form that combines humor, satire, and symbolism to convey a
powerful political message. These cartoons are often published in newspapers or magazines and are meant to entertain, inform, and provoke thought among readers. In order to effectively convey their message, political cartoons that effectively
utilize symbolism to convey a political commentary or satire: "The Scream" by Edvard Munch: While not traditionally considered a political commentary. This painting depicts a figure in distress, with a distorted face and hands on either side of itself.
face. The figure's open mouth and wide eyes convey a sense of fear and anguish. Many interpret this painting as a representation of the anxiety and despair felt by people in society, particularly during turbulent political times. "The Machine" by Honore Daumier: Honore Daumier was a French artist known for his political cartoons that satirized the
government and political figures of his time. "The Machine" is a famous example of his work, depicting a large, menacing machine labeled "Government" that is devouring and crushing the people. The use of the machine as a symbol represents the oppressive power of the government and its impact on the lives of ordinary citizens. "The Tragedy" by
Thomas Nast: Thomas Nast was a prominent American political cartoonist known for his illustrations during the Civil War and Reconstruction era. "The Tragedy" is a powerful cartoon that depicts a grieving African American family, while in the background, a white man dressed as a Klansman is shown setting fire to their home. This cartoon
symbolizes the violence and discrimination faced by African Americans during this time, as well as the failure of the government to protect their rights. "The Evolution of Man" by Bruce MacKinnon is a contemporary Canadian political cartoonist known for his powerful and thought-provoking illustrations. "The Evolution of Man" is a contemporary Canadian political cartoonist known for his powerful and thought-provoking illustrations. "The Evolution of Man" is a contemporary Canadian political cartoonist known for his powerful and thought-provoking illustrations."
striking cartoon that shows the evolution of man from a hunched over figure to an upright, modern human. However, in the final stage of evolution, the man is shown hunched over again, this time holding a smartphone. This cartoon symbolizes the way technology has taken over our lives and how we have become slaves to our devices. "The Big
Picture" by Steve Bell: Steve Bell: Steve Bell is a British political cartoonist known for his provocative and satirical cartoon that depicts former British Prime Minister Tony Blair as a puppet, controlled by the hand of then-US President George W. Bush. This cartoon symbolizes the close relationship between the two leaders and then the two leaders and the two leaders and then the two leaders and the two leaders and the two leaders and the two leaders and the two leaders are two leaders and the two leaders and the two leaders are tw
perception that Blair was simply following Bush's lead in international affairs. These examples demonstrate how political cartoonists can communicate complex ideas and issues in a way that is easily accessible and impactful. Symbolism adds
 depth and nuance to political cartoons and allows readers to engage with the art and gain a deeper understanding of the message being conveyed. Frequently asked questions In political cartoons, the donkey symbol is often used to represent the Democratic Party. This symbol originated from the 1828 presidential campaign of Andrew Jackson, when
his opponents referred to him as a "jackass." Jackson embraced the insult and used the donkey as a symbol for his campaign. Since then, the donkey has been associated with the Democratic Party in political cartoons? Question 3: What
is the meaning behind a broken or cracked Liberty Bell in political cartoons? Question 4: What does a bald eagle symbolize in political cartoons use imagery and text to comment on a contemporary social issue. They may contain a
caricature of a well-known person or an allusion to a contemporary event or trend.[1] By examining the image and text elements of the cartoon, you can start to understand its deeper message and evaluate its effectiveness. Closely examine the image and text to identify the issue the cartoon is about. Think about
what the cartoon artist is trying to say about the issue. Identify the tools the cartoon for recognizable symbols or figures. When you first look at a political cartoon, quickly identify the main visual elements. Can you
recognize any people, like politicians or celebrities? What kinds of expressions are they making? How about any major symbols or places, like the capital or a country? These visuals are major hints to help you identify what the cartoon is about.[2]Common Symbols in Political CartoonsUncle Sam or an eagle for the United StatesJohn Bull, Britannia or
a lion for the United KingdomA beaver for CanadaA bear for RussiaA dragon for ChinaA sun for JapanA kangaroo for AustraliaA donkey for the US Democratic PartyAn elephant for the US Republican Party2Identify areas of exaggeration or caricature. Cartoonists will often exaggerate or distort certain people, places, or other elements of the drawing
either to make something easily recognizable or to make a point. First, identify what aspects have been exaggerated or distorted. Then, ask yourself why the artist might have made that decision. Many political cartoonists will include caricatures of well-known politicians, which means theyll exaggerate their features or bodies for humor, easy
identification, or to emphasize a point. For example, an artist might make an overweight politician even larger to emphasize their greed or power. Advertisement 3Recognize when the way things are and the way they should be. This is usually very
exaggerated and easy to pick up on, since the cartoonist doesnt want you to get the wrong idea. Their use of irony can be a big clue towards uncovering their perspective on the issue.[3] For example, if the cartoonist shows wealthy people receiving money while poorer people beg them for change, theyre using irony to show the viewer how wrong they
believe the situation to be.4Pay attention to how stereotypes are used. A cartoonist might use recognizable stereotypes in the cartoon, either to help the reader identify them or to call them out as offensive and outdated. Try to look at these stereotypes from an academic standpoint, even if they feel hurtful or offensive. How is the artist using or
playing off of the stereotype? Why did they choose to use it in this way?[4] For example, the stereotype of a fat man in a suit often stands for business interests. If youre analyzing a historical political cartoon, take its time period into account. Was this kind of stereotype the norm for this time? How is the artist challenging or supporting it?5 Read all
dialogue and captions and see how they work with the imagery. There wont be much text in a political cartoon, but what is there can really help you decipher the issue and message. Read the text carefully and ask yourself how it clarifies or complicates the images you see. Text in Political CartoonsLabels might be written on people, objects or places
For example, a person in a suit might be labeled Congress, or a briefcase might be labeled with a companys name. Text bubbles might come from one or more of the character is thinking. They usually look like small clouds. Captions or
titles are text outside of the cartoon, either below or above it. They give more information or interpretation to what is happening in the cartoon itself. 6Look for allusions to contemporary events or trends, which are often easily recognizable. Think about current major news stories and look
for clues to them in the cartoon, either visual or textual. For example, a cartoon about voting might include a voting ballot with political candidates and celebrities, indicating that more people may be interested in voting for celebrities, indicating that more people may be interested in voting might include a voting ballot with political candidates and celebrities.
or events. Advertisement 1Use the figures, symbols, and text to identify the issue at play. To go deeper into the cartoon, its essential that you pinpoint the issue that the cartoon, its essential that you pinpoint the issue at play. To go deeper into the cartoon, its essential that you pinpoint the issue at play. To go deeper into the cartoon, its essential that you pinpoint the issue at play.
you need help, google the terms, people, or places that you recognize and see what theyve been in the news for recently. Do some background research and see if the themes and events seem to connect to what you saw in the cartoon. 2Decide what perspective the artist has on the issue. Cartoons are often made about controversial topics, so there are
likely several different viewpoints the cartoonist could have taken. Determining what their view is will help you glean the overall message. Ask yourself how the different characters, objects, or places are portrayed, and if you can identify a clear hero, villain, or victim.[5]The view might be complex, but do your best to parse it out. For example, an anti-
war cartoon might portray the soldiers as heroes, but the government ordering them into battle as selfish or wrong. 3Think about what audience in mind, thinking about their experiences and assumptions. Look at the cartoons publication and ask yourself what segment
of the population its most geared towards. What are their political leanings, especially on this issue? How might you expect them to react to the cartoon? For example, a political cartoon in a more conservative publication will convey a different means of conveying it, than one in a liberal publication. 4Identify what
argumentative or persuasive tools the artist is using. To really analyze the cartoon, you want to think about not only what the artist says, but also what tools theyre using it say it. A good starting point is to consider the rhetorical devices of ethos, pathos, and logos, which are elements of speech and language used to create forceful, effective
arguments. Think about how the artist uses these in the cartoon, and why they choose to employ them.[6]Rhetorical DevicesPathos: An emotional level. For example, the cartoonist might show helpless citizens being tricked by corporations to pique your pity and sense of injustice. Ethos: An ethical new tricked by corporations to pique your pity and sense of injustice. Ethos: An emotional level.
appeal meant to demonstrate the authors legitimacy as someone who can comment on the issue. This might be shown through the authors byline, which could say something like, by Tim Carter, journalist specializing in economics. Logos: A rational appeal that uses logical evidence to support an argument, like facts or statistics. For example, a caption
or label in the cartoon might cite statistics like the unemployment rate or number of casualties in a war.5State the overall message of the cartoon, challenge yourself to identify the overall message. Boil it down to one sentence, if you can
What does the cartoonist want you to get out of this cartoon? How would you describe the message to someone else?[7]6Evaluate the effectiveness of the cartoon. Once youve put together all the elements of the intended audience.
Ask yourself:[8]Does it make a sound argument?Does it use appropriate and meaningful symbols and words to convey a viewpoint?Do the people and objects in the cartoon adequately represent the issue? Advertisement Add New Question Question How good do I need to be at drawing to make good authentic cartoons? To make a good authentic
cartoon, it's less about how well you can draw, and more about how well you can convey the message using analogy, irony, exaggeration, labeling and symbolism. You don't need to be the best at art, as long as you can convey what you are trying to show. Question What does it mean when in a political cartoon it shows graveyards? Maybe that
something in the comic is dying, outdated and should be left for dead or dead. It definitely means death in some form. You would have to analyze a normal cartoon? Almost all cartoons, even those that are not overtly so, are political. You can apply all these steps to a "normal cartoon as a whole to understand it though."
cartoon, too, but you will find that almost all cartoons have a political message. This might not relate to party politics, but more abstract forms, like international relations, gender inequality or generational disparities. See more answers Ask a Question Advertisement Thanks Thanks Thanks Advertisement Thanks Advertisement Thanks Advertisement Thanks Tha
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times. Co-authors: 70 Updated: November 16, 2024 Views:599,577 Categories: Featured Articles | Politics | Critical Thinking PrintSend fan mail to authors for creating a page that has been read 599,577 times. "I teach civics and political cartoons are one of my standards, so I found this to really help my students. They knew what
to look for in their political cartoon that they brought to class."..." more Share your story Interpreting a visual source, like a political cartoon, is very different to interpreting words on a page, which is the case with written sources. Therefore, you need to develop a different set of skills. Political cartoon are ink drawings created to provide a humorous
or critical opinion about political events at the time of its creation. They were particularly popular in newspapers and magazines during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. However, they are still used by many newspapers and magazines during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
primarily created to persuade their audience to take a particular view on a historical event. A successful political cartoon can change someones mind so that they ultimately agree with the cartoonists point of view. Further information: Learn more about the history of the political cartoon with this short YouTube clip: If you've never seen a political
cartoon before, you can see a contemporary one being made below: Understanding what a historical political cartoon means can be difficult for us because we did not live through the political events the cartoons talk about. However, all political cartoons rely heavily upon a very simple visual code rather than relying solely on words to convey their
message. Once we learn how this visual code works, we can use it to decode the specific message of a cartoon. 1. Caricature (Exaggeration) Cartoonists intentionally draw people or characters with physical features that are larger than they naturally are. They do this in order to make a point. Usually, the point is to highlight something about the
character of a person. For example, if a person is drawn with a large, toothy grin, it can be a sign that they have evil intentions and are untrustworthy. Therefore, when interpreting a cartoon, look for any physical features that seem obviously exaggerated. Then, try to decide what point the creator was trying to make about the person. If you want to
see how a cartoonist uses caricatures, watch the short clip below: 2. Labelling To help their audience understand what each person represents in their drawings, cartoonists often write a name on the major figures. Common names include famous politicians or countries. So, when your interpreting a cartoon, look for the labels. You might need to do
 some background research to find out who the people are before you continue with your interpretation. 3. Symbolism Cartoonists use simple objects, or symbols, that the general public would be familiar with. These symbols are used to represent important concepts or ideas. For example, using a skull and crossbones could represent death or danger
While youre interpreting a cartoon, identify any symbols and try to work out what concept the image is meant to represent. Here are some common symbols used in political cartoons, along with their common meanings: Symbol Meaning(s) Symbol Meaning
imprisonment, slavery Crowd of People unstoppable force Cupid love Dollar Sign money Door/gate access, entry Dove peace Eagle America Grave Stone death Grim Reaper Death Hammer & Sickle communism Hare carelessness, arrogance Hourglass limited time Imperial Dragon China Kangaroo Australia Lamb innocence Octopus greed Ostrich
refusal to hear bad news Owl wisdom Puppet being controlled Rainbow hope, future Rat infection, disease Red Star communism Rose love Samurai Japan Sheep blind trust Skull death Snake evil, temptation Spider/web control, entrapment Spiked Helmet German Star of David Jews or Israel Stars and Stripes America Swastika Nazis, Nazism Throne
power Turtle slow, vulnerable Uncle Sam America Wall division, separation Woman with flag a specific country Woman with scales justice Young Child naivety, innocence, victim 4. Captions Another handy way that cartoonists convey important information to their audience is by providing a written explanation through a speech bubble in the cartoon
itself or a caption at the bottom of the image. These words should help you understand the main historical event or issue that the image is based upon. 5. Analogies An analogy is a comparison between two different things to highlight a particular similarity in ideas. Through the comparison of a complex political issue with more simplistic, 'everyday
scenarios with which the audience would be more familiar, a cartoonist can more easily convey their message. Here are some common analogies and what they could mean in political cartoons: Analogy Meaning(s) Analogy Meaning Boss & Employee Shows a power difference Crucifixion Shows an innocent sacrifice Marriage
Shows a close relationship Parent & Child Shows dependence or care Predator & Prey Shows impending destruction Shipwreck Shows a disaster 6. Stereotypes It was very common for cartoonists to represent a particular racial
group looks like. For example, Chinese people in the 19th century were drawn with a long pony-tail in their hair. Cartoonists use this so that audiences can readily identify which people group is the target of the cartoon. Getting to know common stereotypes can be quite confronting for us, since they can be very derogatory in nature. However, once
you become familiar with common forms of stereotyping, you can identify the appropriate people group being targeted in a particular cartoon. Common Stereotypes: Pickelhaube (the spiked helmet), gorilla-like body Long ponytail, narrow eyes, thin moustache, traditional Chinese clothes and hat, two large front teeth Circular glasses, narrow eyes,
toothy grin Slouch hat, clean-shaven, khaki clothes Large nose, kippah (Jewish prayer cap) Once you have deconstructed the cartoon, now you can start creating your explanation. To do so, answer the following questions: Who or what is represented by the characterisation, stereotypes and symbols? Who or what have been labelled? What information
is provided by the caption? What is the political issue being mentioned in the cartoon? (You may need to do some background research to discover this). What is the analogy that this cartoon is based upon? Once you have answered these questions, you are ready to answer the final one: What did the cartoonist want the audience to think about the
issue? Identifying the message of a political cartoon shows that you understand the primary source, which means that you ascertain: The purpose of
the cartoon The motive of the cartoonist The relevance of the source to your argument The accuracy of the information presented in the image Frith. I. (31st December, 1941), 'No offence, mum...', The Bulletin, Demonstrating interpretation of political cartoons in your writing: The political cartoon by Frith makes a comment on Australia's changing
diplomatic relationships between Great Britain and America during the Second World War. The cartoonist does this through the depiction of three main characters. The man on the left is clearly a caricature of Australian prime minister John Curtin, as he was commonly drawn with his distinctive hat and glasses. The woman on the right of the image is
meant to symbolise Great Britain. This symbolism is clear due to the use of the Union Jack, the flag of Great Britain, drawn upon her apron. Furthermore, she is depicted as the mythical figure of Britain. The second woman is meant to be America, as she is drawn with a stereotypical 1940s American hairstyle and
clothing. This symbolism is reinforced by the depiction of the stripes of the American flag drawn on her apron. The primary analogy the cartoon uses is the idea of 'holding onto your mother's apron strings', which is used to describe a young child depending on their mother for comfort and security. This analogy is evident in the image caption which
explicitly states that Curtin is "shifting to these here apron strings". The overall message of the cartoon is that Curtin is switching Australia's dependency that Australia demonstrated during the early years of the Second World
War. Political cartoons can be found in the pages of nearly every newspaper in the world. Cartoons that make people laugh. They can give us a unique perspective on a particular event and throw light on public attitudes and values. Therefore, to understand a cartoon, we need to
know its historical context: What was happening at the time? Who are the main people in the cartoon? Why are those people important/whom do they represent? What are the artists intentions? A political cartoon about the introduction of Marshall Aid by Clive Uptton. Catalogue ref: INF 3/1295. President Truman signed the Economic Recovery Act of
1948. It was named the Marshall Plan, after Secretary of State George Marshall, who in 1947 proposed that the United States provide economic assistance to restore the economic infrastructure of post-war Europe. Cartoonists use a range of techniques which we need to learn to read. For example, the cartoonist might compare people or events in
their cartoon to symbols that no longer exist or make sense today. Symbols are pictures and images that are used to represent countries, people, events, and qualities. As well as John Bull, there are other symbols for Britain has been represented as a lion or by the figure of Britannia, a woman with a trident and dressed in Roman clothes.
Symbols can be seen as shorthand for other things too. For example, a cart horse for the trade union movement or doves or lilies used to represent the idea of peace. Cartoon by Leonard Raven-Hill from Punch Magazine, or The London Charivari. 13 December 1911. Title As between friends. [Wikimedia Commons] Transcript: As Between Friends:
British Lion (to Russian Bear): If we hadnt such a thorough understanding I might almost be tempted to ask what youre doing with our little playfellow. The figure of Uncle Sam, with top hat and clothing made up from the American flag has been used to represent USA. The bald eagle is also used as a symbol for the continent. The Democrat party has
often been shown as a donkey or the Republican party as an elephant. Famous people can also be recognised from a symbol. A cartoonist may exaggerate of one of their most prominent features or characteristics and turn it into a symbol for that person. A cartoonist in the Second World War just had to draw a toothbrush moustache and everyone
would instantly know that it was meant to be Hitler. When people saw a fat cigar or the V for Victory sign they automatically thought of Winston Churchill. Cartoons also give us other visual clues. The way the cartoonist has chosen to draw important people infers what he/she thought about them. The situation shown or what appears in the background
also gives us clues. A cartoon usually consists of two elements, a drawing that pokes fun at an individual or event and something that is not real. Their subject is shown in this made up situations exaggerated to amuse. Cartoons can also
shock. They might suggest things that people might be reluctant to say. Historical political cartoons rarely make us laugh loud as we are not viewing them as people of the time. What was considered witty twenty or hundred years ago may seem like a stale joke or completely lost on us today. Why are cartoons useful as sources? Cartoon for Ditty Box
magazine: Hitler appears as the organ-grinder and Mussolini the monkey, 1939-1946, Artist: Wyndham Robinson, Catalogue ref: INF 3/791R. The cartoon refers to Rudolf Hess, who was Hitlers deputy from 1933. In 1941 he secretly flew to Britain on a mission to negotiate a peace between Britain and Germany. It is also critical of the wartime
relationship between Germany and Italy. The term an organ grinders monkey means that a powerful person wants them to do and have no real power themselves. Street organ grinders historically used monkeys to perform tricks and attract interest and money. Value of cartoon sources They provide first-hand opinions of events
and people, offering unique perspectives that can enrich our understanding of these concerns. They may show someone stronger or weaker to communicate a viewpoint. They often use satire and humour as part of their communicate a viewpoint. They often use satire and humour as part of their communicate a viewpoint.
specific political or social groups. They can also reveal different opinions about complicated issues, events or people in a more accessible way. They are helpful to use together with written sources to build a comprehensive interpretation of historical event. Cartoons often use visual imagery, symbols, and caricatures to convey messages. These visual
elements can also capture the sense of an era and communicate ideas that might not be as effectively conveyed through other types of historical records. Some cartoons too, may be evidence of a governments efforts to influence people in a particular way and could be seen as instruments of propaganda. Historians must be able to tell the difference
between fact and opinion. Therefore, we must always try and place the cartoon in context. This means understanding the historical situation it is commenting upon, so we can evaluate its reliability as evidence. Historical situation it is commenting upon, so we can evaluate its reliability as evidence. Historical situation it is commenting upon, so we can evaluate its reliability as evidence. Historical situation it is commenting upon, so we can evaluate its reliability as evidence.
webpages. Cartoons can help develop your critical and creative thinking. Questions for cartoons Looking Is there an original caption or title? What is happening in the picture? Can you identify the people/place/circumstances that the cartoon relates to? What techniques has the cartoon in the picture? Can you identify the people/place/circumstances that the cartoon relates to? What is happening in the picture? Can you identify the people/place/circumstances that the cartoon relates to? What is happening in the picture? Can you identify the people/place/circumstances that the cartoon relates to? What is happening in the picture? Can you identify the people/place/circumstances that the cartoon relates to? What is happening in the picture? Can you identify the people/place/circumstances that the cartoon relates to? What is happening in the picture? Can you identify the people place in the picture? Can you identify the people place in the picture? Can you identify the people place in the picture? Can you identify the people place in the picture? Can you identify the people place in the picture? Can you identify the people place in the picture? Can you identify the people place in the picture? Can you identify the people place in the picture? Can you identify the people place in the picture? Can you identify the people place in the picture? Can you identify the people place in the picture? Can you identify the people place in the picture? Can you identify the people place in the picture? Can you identify the people place in the picture? Can you identify the people place in the picture? Can you identify the people place in the picture? Can you identify the people place in the picture? Can you identify the people place in the picture? Can you identify the people place in the picture? Can you identify the picture? Can you identify the people place in the picture? Can you identify the picture? Can you i
you have evidence in image of the date/period?Can you identify the cartoonists and research their work?UnderstandingWhat is this cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoonists point of view?Is the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoonists point of view?Is the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about?Does this fit with your knowledge of the cartoon about about about about about a property of the cartoon about about a property of the cartoon about about a property of the cartoon about 
on the same issue?What other sources would help to understand this cartoon?Does this cartoon?Does this cartoon give us a perspective on a historical event that written documents may not?ActivityLook at all the cartoons on this web page. Try and answer the questions. Remember you may need to research the historical context if you are unfamiliar with it.Printable
worksheetsCartoon recording sheet Download cartoon recording sheet PDFCartoons suggested activities Word documentDownload cartoons suggested activities Word documentDownload cartoons suggested activities PDF Peter Macdiarmid/Getty
Images News/Getty Images The main purpose of political cartoons is to give an opinion or a point about a political event or view in a humorous way. Most cartoons can be found in the daily newspapers on the editorial
pages. They can also be found on political websites and in magazines. They are usually funny, if a reader understands the meaning. A good cartoonist can use his or her skills to change the opinion of people. Some of the techniques used in drawing the cartoons include irony, symbolism, analogy, exaggeration and labeling. MORE FROM
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