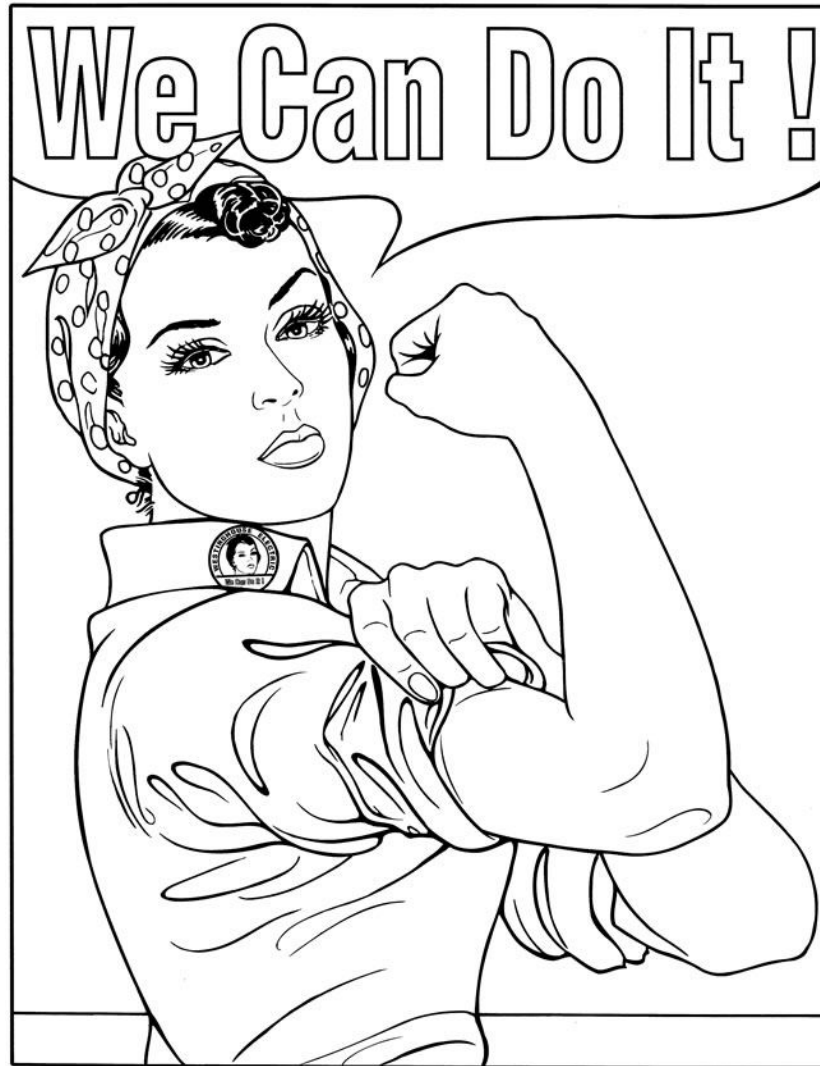


# THE US HISTORY SURVIVAL GUIDE

resources and practice for American History students



World War II poster by J. Howard Miller, ca. 1942.

“Europe was created by history. America was created by philosophy.”

--Margaret Thatcher

“The greatness of America lies not in being more enlightened than any other nation,  
but rather in her ability to repair her faults.”

--Alexis de Tocqueville



“Intellectually, I know that America is no better than any other country;  
emotionally I know she is better than every other country.”

--Sinclair Lewis



# US HISTORY TRICKS OF THE TRADE:

## HOW TO READ LIKE A ROCKSTAR!

**Step 1:** Number all paragraphs and visuals (pictures, maps, graphs, tables, etc.)

**Step 2:** Put arrows by:

- ➡ Author
- ➡ Title
- ➡ Source
- ➡ Date
- ➡ Any footnotes etc.



**Step 3:** As you are reading...

- ☆ Put a box **AROUND** words you don't know/ key vocabulary
- ☆ Underline things that are important
- ☆ Put a ★ next to main ideas
- ☆ Put a ? next to things that are confusing/you have questions about
- ☆ Add a # to make a personal connection to the text

Write in the margins --ask questions, show connections, make predictions

## The 4-STEP A Selected Response Strategy

Read the excerpt below and answer the question which follows.

...there is one front and one battle where everyone in the United States-every man, woman, and child – is in action, and will be privileged to remain in action throughout this war. That front is right there at home...Ask the women, and children whom Hitler is starving whether the rationing of tires and gasoline and sugar is too great a "sacrifice."

-President Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
from "A Call for Sacrifice." 1942

What was the historical context of the wartime mobilization described in the quotation?

- a. World War
- b. The Cold War
- c. World War II
- d. The Korean War

#1 What is the question asking you to find?

#3 Can you eliminate some answers based on the question, source, or title?

#2 What is the title? What is the source of the excerpt? When was the quotation written?

#4 Read and annotate the excerpt

# QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF WHEN YOU SEE A...

## ★MAP★

1. Does it have a title or labels, or do you recognize any of the places illustrated?
2. Is there a key to give you more information about the geography pictured?
3. What might you interpret from the features of the map?

*Does it have a theme? Does it illustrate data?*

➡ *Demographic changes?*

(i.e. how groups of people are counted, ex. age, race, gender, etc.)

➡ *Influence of geography upon societies?*



## ★POLITICAL CARTOON★

Do you recognize people, places, symbols, allegories, etc.?

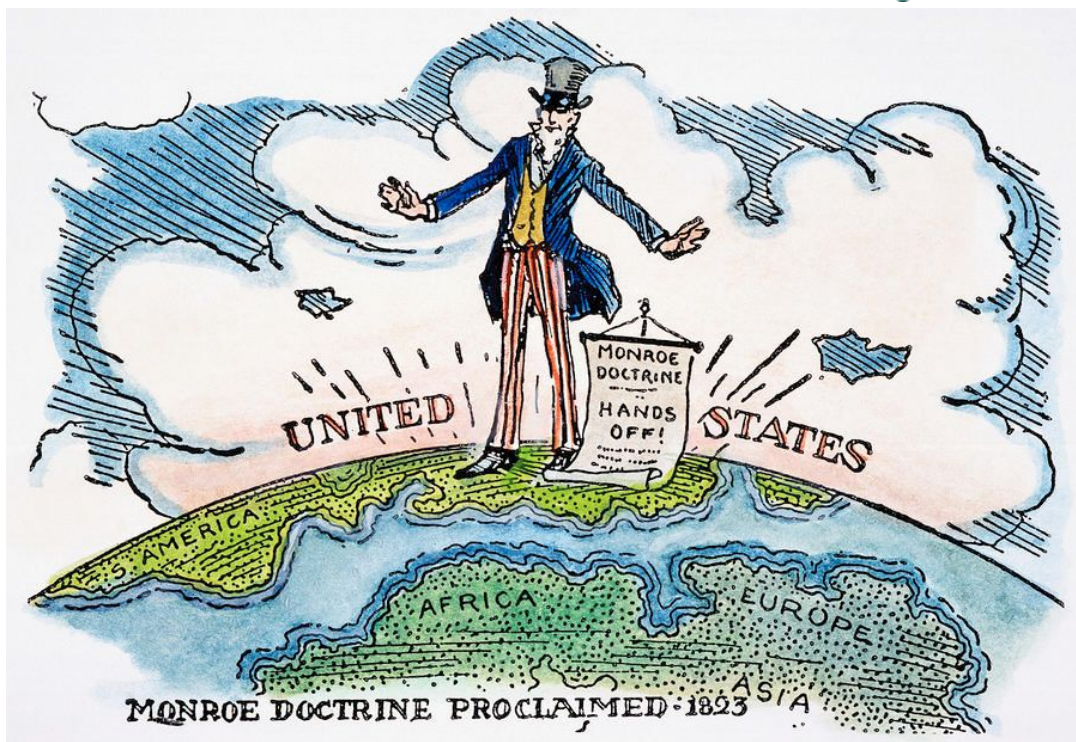
What things are labeled? What clues does that give us about the meaning of the cartoon?

Do you notice any distinct exaggeration? What might the cartoonist be trying to communicate?

What seems to be the cartoonist's opinion about this topic?

What is drawn here? What do you notice first?

Do you think anyone might have felt differently than the cartoonist about this topic? Explain.





# ☆ VISUAL ART ☆

(ex. PAINTING, PHOTOGRAPH, ADVERTISEMENT)

1. Does this artwork have a title?
2. Is there any text within the image to reveal context clues about the artist's meaning?
3. Do you know when this image was created?  
What might be the historical context of this image?
4. What does the composition reveal? (i.e. the choices for where things are placed in the image) *What is in the foreground and background? Is there movement in the image? What is the focal point?*
5. Notice the colors and dark/light contrast. Do these choices reveal a mood or theme?
6. Interpret why the artist chose these formal qualities.  
What seems to be the artist's message about this topic.
7. Do you think anyone might thought or felt differently than the artist about this topic? Explain.



# ☆ CHART OR GRAPH ☆

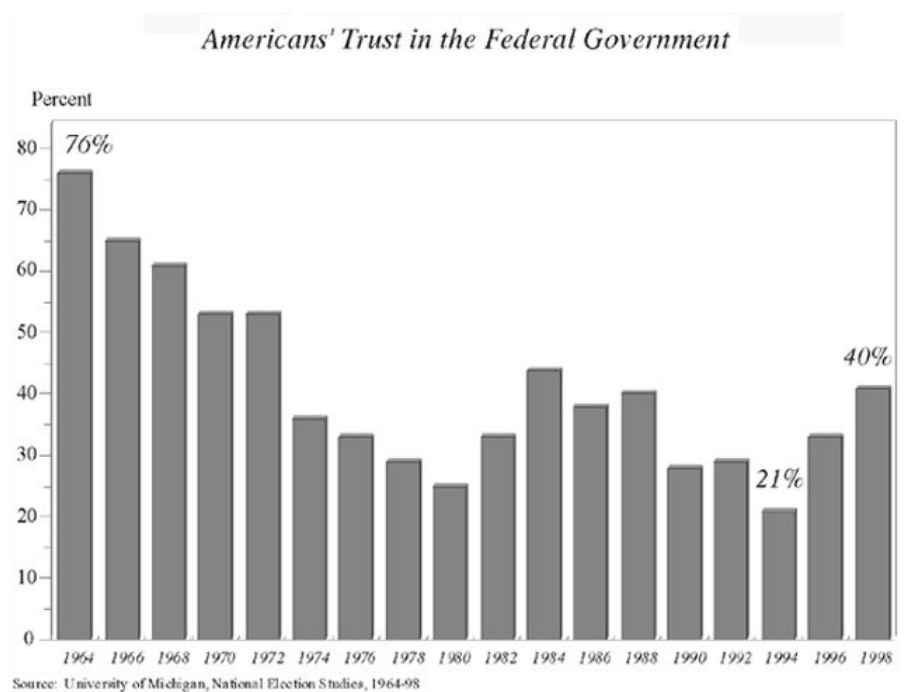
1. Does it have a title?
2. What are the X and Y axes measuring?
3. Does it reveal a trend? (i.e. a pattern, change over time, comparison between groups, etc.)

*What is its theme? What is the meaning behind the data it illustrates?*

⇒ *Demographic changes?*

(i.e. how groups of people are counted, ex. age, race, gender, etc.)

⇒ *Changes in the economy/ business cycle?*



# Document Analysis Strategies!

## HAPPY! A Document Analysis Strategy

**H** — **HISTORICAL CONTENT:** What is the document saying? What are the main ideas?

**A** — **AUDIENCE:** Who was this document intended for?

**P** — **PURPOSE:** Why is the author writing this?

What is the historical context?

**P** — **POINT OF VIEW:** Where is the author coming from?

What is his or her background (age, race, gender, religion, origin, etc.)? *How does it impact his or her perspective?*

**Y** — **“THE BIG WHY!”:** (Wh)Y is this document significant in the “big picture” of history?

*Analyze the broader significance or theme in US History relevant to the document.*



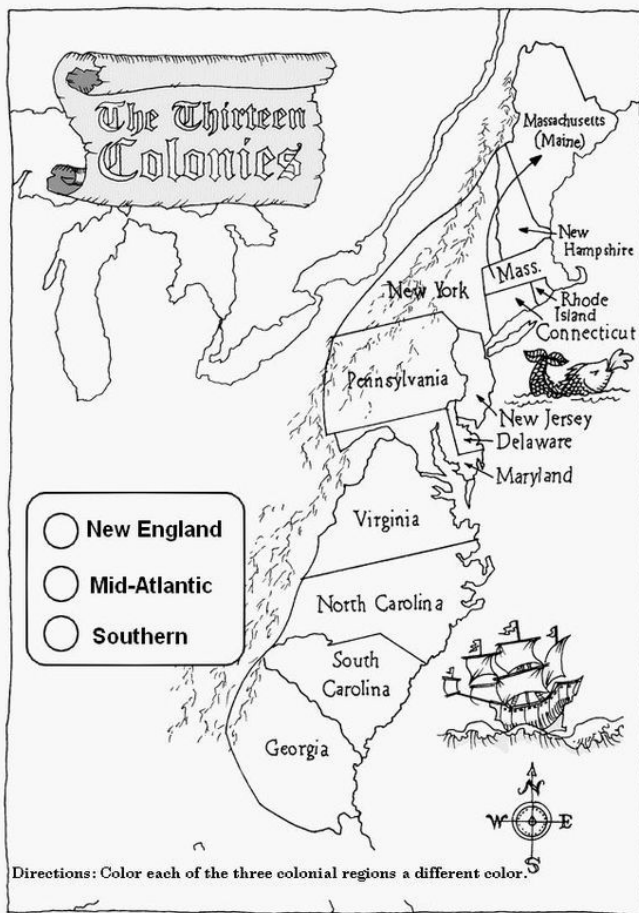
### OPTION #2:

FOLD YOUR PAPER INTO 4 SECTIONS TO COMPLETE A DOCUMENT ANALYSIS GRAPHIC ORGANIZER.

<p>⇒ Title of Document ⇒ Date of Document ⇒ Author of Document</p>	<p>⇒ Source of Document (Primary or Secondary) Explain author's point of view.</p>
<p>★ <b>MAIN IDEA:</b> Summarize the author's main point in your own words.</p>	
<p><b>EVIDENCE</b> What <u>images</u> do you see? What <u>words</u> do you see? Are there important <u>quotations</u>?</p>	<p><b>WHY IS THIS EVIDENCE IMPORTANT?</b></p>

# DOCUMENT ANALYSIS: COLONIAL GEOGRAPHY

## Document: Thirteen Colonies Map



## Document Analysis Notes:

**\*Food For Thought:** After you color each of the colonial regions, consider how the geographical placement affected the economic opportunities of each region as well as social aspects of colonial development such as interactions with Native Americans.

Write the link to your constructed response prompt if you are typing:

Source: Retrieved from [pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com)

SSUSH1 Compare and contrast the development of English settlement and colonization during the 17th Century.

**Writing Prompt:** How did geography impact the economy and social developments of each of the three colonial regions?

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## **FEEDBACK & REFLECTION**

<b>Rubric:</b>	<b>Teacher Comments:</b>
<p><b>3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The student uses key content vocabulary in context and provides details and/ or evidence to support his or her analysis.</li> <li>• The student accurately analyzes the broader significance or theme in US History relevant to the document.</li> </ul>	
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**Student Reflection & Notes:**

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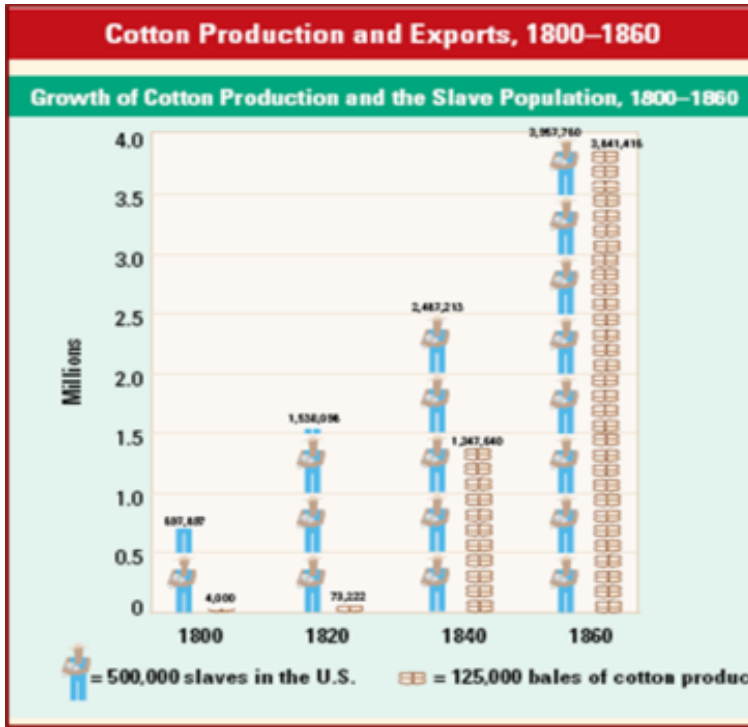
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# DOCUMENT ANALYSIS: IMPACT OF THE COTTON GIN

## Document: Cotton Production Graph



Source: Retrieved from

<https://eliwhitneycottongin.wikispaces.com/>

## Document Analysis Notes:

*\*Food For Thought: When Eli Whitney invented his cotton gin his intention was to make the work of slaves easier as they produced cotton. However, his invention had unintended consequences.*

Write the link to your constructed response prompt if you are typing:

7b. Explain how the North, South, and West were linked through industrial and economic expansion including Henry Clay and the American System.

**Writing Prompt: Explain the impact of Eli Whitney's cotton gin on the institution of slavery.**

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**Student Reflection & Notes:**

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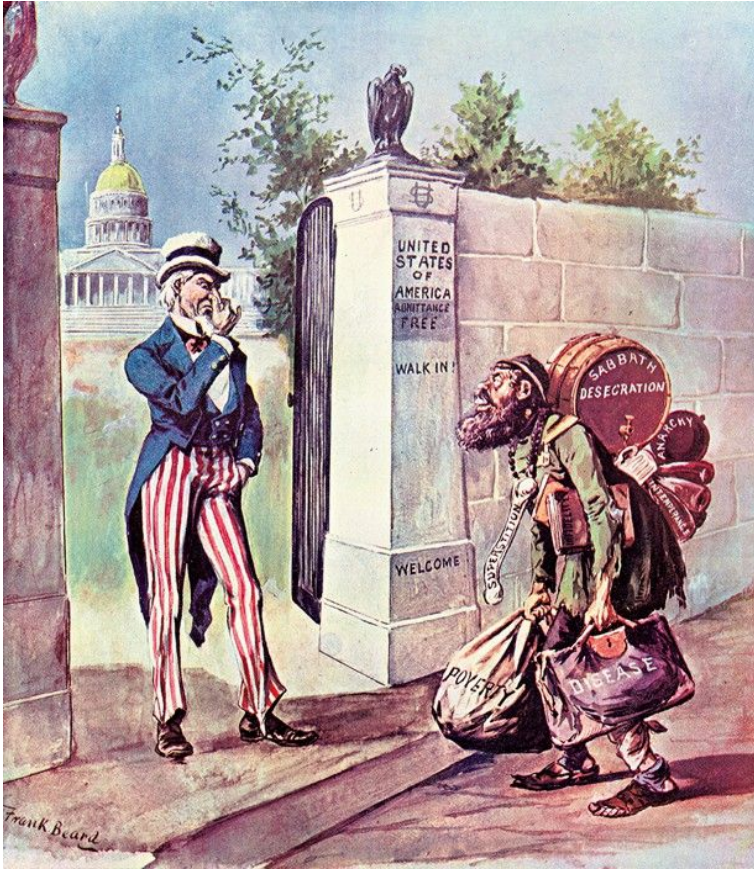


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# DOCUMENT ANALYSIS: LIFE OF A SECOND WAVE IMMIGRANT

## Document: Immigration Political Cartoon

## Document Analysis Notes:



*\*Food For Thought: In the early decades of the 1800s, most immigrants to the US were from Ireland or Germany. By the end of the 1800s, where were most immigrants coming from? How were these immigrants different from previous immigrant groups? What was life like for these immigrants?*

Write the link to your constructed response prompt if you are typing:

Source: "The Immigrant, The Stranger at Our Gate," 1899

SSUSH 11d. Describe Ellis and Angel Islands, the change in immigrants' origins and their influence on the economy, politics, and culture of the United States.

**Writing Prompt:** Describe the challenges faced by the "new immigrants" of the late 19th century and early 20th century.

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**Student Reflection & Notes:**

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# DOCUMENT ANALYSIS: WOMEN AND WORLD WAR II

**Document:**  
**Women & World War II Propaganda**



**Document Analysis Notes:**

***\*Food For Thought:***

During World War II traditional gender roles began to change. Women were regarded to be the “angel of the home.” How did World War II impact their sense of patriotism or duty to the United States?

Write the link to your constructed response prompt if you are typing:

SSUSH19d. Investigate the domestic impact of the war including war mobilization, as indicated by rationing, wartime conversion, and the role of women and African Americans or Blacks.

**Writing Prompt:** How did women contribute to the war effort on the homefront during World War II? ***Predict: Will women be willing to return to traditional expectations of women after the war ends?***

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**Student Reflection & Notes:**



# DOCUMENT ANALYSIS: THE MONROE DOCTRINE & JFK

## Document: Inaugural Address Quotation

“To our sister republics south of the border, we offer a special pledge...a new alliance for progress...Let all our neighbors know that we shall join with them to oppose aggression or subversion anywhere in the Americas. And let every other power know that this Hemisphere intends to remain the master of its own house.”

Source: President John F. Kennedy’s Inaugural Address, 1961

## Document Analysis Notes:

***Food For Thought:** Remember that the Monroe Doctrine of 1823 was a statement by the United States that both North and South America would no longer be welcome for European colonization. How did this relate to foreign policy of the Cold War?*

Write the link to your constructed response prompt if you are typing:

SSUSH20a. Analyze the international policies and actions developed as a response to the Cold War including containment, the Marshall Plan, the Truman Doctrine, and the Korean War.

SSUSH21a. Analyze the international policies and actions taken as a response to the Cold War including U.S. involvement in Cuba and the escalation of the war in Vietnam as a result of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.

**Writing Prompt: Compare the policies and actions of JFK’s administration during the Cold War with previous foreign policy in American History.**

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