



NYS Learning Standard	Standards: Social Studies 1, 2, & 5. English Language Arts 3. Arts 4. Recommended for: Grade 7 American History, U.S. History and Government, Global History.
Goals	To analyze information. To identify central issues. To draw conclusions. To make comparisons of style and substance.
Materials	Contemporary political cartoons from recent newspapers and examples of early cartoons from American history. Click here for the analysis form.
Activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Students should prepare for this activity by working with cartoons and by analyzing and evaluating political cartoons.2. Students should be provided with contemporary cartoons dealing with a variety of topics and should, through class discussion or other assignments, be familiar with cartooning techniques such as symbols, captions, caricature, humor, exaggeration and distortion.3. The teacher should provide students with one contemporary cartoon and an example of a cartoon from the past. By analyzing information, issues, style and substance of the two cartoons, students should then complete the analysis form. The importance of the lesson is for the students to see how cartooning has changed and to consider reasons why that may be so.4. After completion of the graphic organizer (the analysis form), bring the class together for a discussion of the differences the students found between the cartoons. Discussion would most likely center around the plethora of details from the past and the strong political standpoints they show.
Evaluation	Assessment of this lesson may take many forms. The teacher may grade the graphic organizer on the student's effort and how well he/she completed the assignment. Class discussion may offer an assessment of how well the students were able to see the comparisons. Alternatively the teacher may use a new cartoon interpretation activity on a quiz or test.

Comparing Past and Present Political Cartoons

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

To compare this cartoon from the past with a contemporary cartoon, start by listing as many details from the cartoons as you can. Include topic(s), caricatures, examples of exaggeration, hyperbole, distortion, the use of humor, simplicity or complexity of ideas and/or of the artwork. Look for as many features as possible. Then, complete the comparative boxes at the bottom of the page.

PAST	PRESENT
Similarities:	Differences: