

Teaching News Is Elementary

March 3, 2017

Each week, this lesson will share some classroom activity ideas that use the newspaper or other NIE resources. You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some classrooms may be able to use this as a worksheet and others might need to ask and answer the questions in a class discussion.

Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for all of your students.

Materials you will need for this lesson: The Seattle Times print replica, computer or smart board, pencils or pens, paper

Article: EARLY IMMIGRATION: FEARS OF 'THE YELLOW PERIL

Section: Sponsored Newspapers in Education Content (scroll down on menu bar to this tab); Page 2

Print Replica Date: Sunday, February 19, 2017

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

Objectives:

Students will read an article, and search for personal connections or lessons they see in their own lives.

Pre- Reading Discussion:

An ***inference***, is making a conclusion or opinion that is formed because of known facts or evidence. Examine the following picture and make an *inference* about what the story will be about:



You can learn a lot from a historic image or news report if you take the time to examine it closely. Look at the photo and ask yourself:

- What do I see?
- What do I think is going on?
- What does it make me wonder?
- What questions do I still have?

Turn and share your answers with a partner. Together, go through the following questions and be prepared to share your answers with your other classmates.

- What do you know about the Japanese culture or traditions? Foods?
- Have you ever heard of *The Yellow Peril*?
- What do you think it was about?
- What ethnic group/s were considered *yellow* at this time? Why?

Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A *context clue* is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

Write your guess and then look up the definition and write it below your guess. How close did you come to the correct definition?

“News reports commonly used **derogatory** language and even racial slurs to talk about Japanese Americans and other ethnic groups. Popular media perpetuated stereotypes about Asian Americans as deceitful, unclean, and dangerous.”

Derogatory Guess:

Derogatory Definition:

Reading Comprehension:

1. Japanese immigrants began coming to the U.S. in the late 19th century. In what industries did they find work?
2. Political leaders warned of a “yellow peril.” What was it?
3. This hateful language led to real-life consequences. What began to happen?
4. By 1940, there were almost 7,000 Japanese Americans in Seattle, the city’s largest ethnic minority group.

5. They carved out a place for themselves in Japantown; where is it located today?
6. What did they create in Japantown?
7. Farmers gained a major foothold in the area surrounding Seattle, with _____ percent of all produce grown in the region coming from Japanese-owned farms.

Journal Writing Prompts:

Media Literacy: The Meaning Behind the Message

All media messages are created with a purpose: to inform, to entertain, to persuade. Sometimes that purpose is affected by motives like political power or profit—so it's important to question our sources before accepting them as fact.

The article, *'To Rid Country of Asiatic Laborers'* appeared in The Seattle Times on Aug. 9, 1908.

Read together with a partner and answer the following questions:

- Who created this message and why?
- What writing techniques are used to grab your attention?
- How might different audiences interpret this message?
- Whose values and interests are being represented—and whose aren't?

There was a clear message of preventing Chinese and Japanese immigration into the United States at that time, in 1908.

The article stated, "The principal object is to abolish and not minimize the evil." What do you think the politicians meant by using those words?

Are we still hearing this message? What cultures are being targeted? Why?