“The Civil War (1861-1865); Using Political Cartoons”

GPS: SS8H6- The student will analyze the impact of the Civil War & Reconstruction on Georgia
a. Explain the importance of key issues and events that led to the Civil War; include slavery, states’ rights, nullification, Missouri Compromise, Compromise of 1850 and the Georgia Platform, Kansas-Nebraska Act, Dred Scott Case, election of 1860, the debate over secession in Georgia, and the role of Alexander Stephens.
b. State the importance of key events of the Civil War; include Antietam, Emancipation Proclamation, Gettysburg, Chickamauga, the Union Blockade of Georgia’s coast, Sherman’s Atlanta Campaign, Sherman’s March to the Sea, and Andersonville

Duration: 2 class periods

Chapter Objectives:
Discuss the social, political, and economic factors that contributed to the outcome of the Civil war.
- Describe what life was like for soldiers and the people at home during the Civil War
- Identify key people and events of the Civil War
- Discuss Georgia’s involvement in the Civil War

EQ: (day #1); What are political cartoons and where can you find one?
(day #2); What significance do political cartoons play in society?

Terms & Names:

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Motivate:
Whole Group; Discussion
✓ Ask students; how many of you like reading cartoons? Pause & take a count!
✓ Have you ever looked at the significance or the underlying messages of cartoons; what are they really attempting to say to the readers, especially political cartoons?

Small Group or Pairs; Discussion
✓ Locate three political cartoons that involve present day issues and discuss what the cartoon is trying to convey to the reader. (Cartoon #1, Cartoon #2, Cartoon #3; attached)
✓ Now, show the class on overhead or LCD the political cartoon by Thomas Nast “The Union as It Was”. Allow students to work in their small groups to brainstorm, and then discuss with whole class.
Task: to show mastery understanding of political cartoons in different historical periods.

1. Go to http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/nast/sf_nast.html evaluate three political cartoons then write an essay summary of each, attach a copy of the cartoon in your word document.
2. E-mail your assignment for credit; and, be prepared to present one cartoon to the class.
3. Using what you have learned about the Civil War draw your own political cartoon addressing it. Examples: people, events, politics, war, society, culture, economic, etc.

Enrichment Activity: Visit the Atlanta History Center, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield, and Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History, to understand more of the political, economic, and social events that occurred during the Civil War.
Kids that have been arrested due to illegally downloading music from the internet onto their MP3’s & I-Pod’s.
Referencing Democratic Party officials in Florida over the “hanging chads” issue during the presidential election of 2000, Gore vs. Bush.

What does the cartoon say?

  West Palm, Florida democrats are not smart enough to vote.
Presidential hopeful Senator John McCain (R-AZ) speaking with Republican Party officials stating; if these two [Senators Obama (D-IL) & Clinton (D-NY)] keep beating one another up in the Democratic primary they will make my job easier in winning the office of United States President.