

Unit 1: The German-American Experience During WWI

Lesson 1: The Growth of Anti-German Sentiment during WWI in America

Educator Outline

Bell Ringer

- Provide students about three minutes to write down their responses in their notebooks. After students are finished, choose four random students to share what they think.
- Following this, state something along the lines of: “Among the countless ways war affects people, often it makes a given society more suspicious of the ‘other’ within their own borders. Unfortunately, the American people have done this in the past. This was especially true of how German-Americans were perceived during WWI. This unit will specifically focus on the experiences of German-Americans as revealed by local newspapers here in Ohio. Accordingly, this compelling question will drive our unit: ‘What was it like to be a German-American in Ohio during WWI?’ Let’s begin our analysis with a WWII-era cartoon.”

Analyze and Wonder: Depictions of “The Other”

- For Dr. Seuss’ cartoon, allow students about two minutes to analyze and think about the questions and then discuss the true nature of the cartoon.

Watch and Wonder: Revisiting Japanese-American Internment

- Before watching the video clip on Japanese-American internment, make sure to preview it first by ensuring that the students know the questions they are wondering about for the video clip.

Contextualizing the Growth of Anti-German Sentiments in America

- To contextualize the growth of anti-German sentiment, simply present the images to the students while they take notes.

Activities: Providing Deeper Context with Newspaper Analysis

- For the newspaper analysis, provide the links to the students in a digital format instead of having them type each link individually. If you are unable to link them digitally, shorten the URLs using a service like TinyURL, Bitly or Google URL Shortener.

Exit Ticket: Your Answer to the Compelling Question

- Finish with the exit ticket. If time allows, have some students share their hypotheses and discuss as a class.