Neutrality, Internationalism, Isolationism, and World Leadership 1914 – 1941:

Using Resources from the National Archives and the Center for Legislative Archives to Teach about Foreign Affairs
https://www.archives.gov/legislative/resources/ebooks
U.S Foreign Policy Issues 1914 - 1941

Isolationism vs Internationalism

Avoiding entanglement in European conflict vs Exercising international leadership

Neutrality vs Engagement

When does America fight? Why does America fight?
Topic 1: American Neutrality, 1914 – 1917

Documents 1 – 3
Cartoon Title:Untitled

Cartoon Date: August 19, 1914

World War I begins: July 28, 1914

U.S. enters World War I: April 6, 1917
What does the artist convey via **visual content** of the image?

**Cartoon Title:** The Way of the Neutral is Hard

**Cartoon Date:** February 13, 1915
Cartoon Title: The Way of the Neutral is Hard

Cartoon Date: February 13, 1915
Cartoon Title: Drafting the Third Note to Germany

Cartoon Date: July 17, 1915
What does the artist convey via **visual content** of the image?
Lusitania
Rights of Neutrals
On High Seas
Neutrals to Have
Sea Freedom
Lusitania
Neutrals
Mediation
Nebraskan
Sea Rights
Lusitania
Neutrals
Meditation
Nebraskan
Message 2: Who was Uncle Sam writing to?

Why?
**Context Question:** How do the date and title of the cartoon connect it to its time?

**Title:** “Drafting the Third Note to Germany”

**Date:** July 17, 1915

**Date of Sinking:** The British passenger liner *Lusitania* was attacked and sunk off the coast of Ireland by a German U-boat on May 17, 1915.

**Facts to Consider:** The ship sunk 20 minutes after the attack killing almost 2/3 of the ship’s 1959 passengers and crew, including 128 Americans.

The U.S. was neutral in World War I at this time.
The Cartoon’s Message: What is Berryman saying through this cartoon?
The Artist’s Point of View: How does the artist show point of view in this cartoon?
Relating the Cartoon to this Presentation’s Guiding Question:

Which principle prevailed in U.S. foreign policy between 1914 and 1941: avoiding foreign entanglements or providing world leadership?
What “hooks” make this a good teaching document?
Topic 2 America’s Decision for War in 1917:
Documents 4 – 6
What does the artist convey via **visual content** of the image?
Two Uncle Sam images:
July 17, 1915

February 1, 1917
Context: What do the date and title of the cartoon connect it to its time?

Cartoon Title: “Ruthless Warfare at Sea”

Date: February 1, 1917

Germany resumes unrestricted submarine warfare: January 31, 1917
Message: What is Berryman saying through this cartoon?
**Point of View:** What is the artist’s point of view on the events?
How does this cartoon relate to the guiding question?

Which principle prevailed in U.S. foreign policy between 1914 and 1941: avoiding foreign entanglements or providing world leadership?
What “hooks” make this a good teaching document?
The present German submarine warfare against commerce is a warfare against mankind.

It is a war against all nations. American ships have been sunk, American lives taken, in ways which it has stirred us very deeply to learn of, but the ships and people of other neutral and friendly nations have been sunk and overwhelmed in the waters in the same way. There has been no discrimination. The challenge is to all mankind. Each nation must decide for itself how it will meet it. The choice we make for ourselves must be made with a moderation of counsel and a temperateness of judgment befitting our character and our motives as a nation. We must put excited feeling away. Our motive will not be revenge or the victorious assertion of the physical might of the nation, but only the vindication of right, of human right, of which we are only a single champion.

The name of the enemy is large—

Germany, Austria, and Turkey.
my constitutional duty, I advise that the Congress declare the recent course of the Imperial German Government to be in fact nothing less than war against the government and people of the United States; that it formally accept the status of belligerent which has thus been thrust upon it; and that it take immediate steps not only to put the country in a more thorough state of defense but also to exert all its power and employ all its resources to bring the Government of the German Empire to terms and end the war.

We have no quarrel with the German people. We have no feeling towards them but one of sympathy and friendship. It was not upon their impulse that their government acted in entering this war. It was not with their previous knowledge or approval. It was a war determined upon as wars used to be determined upon in the old, unhappy days when peoples were nowhere
What does the artist convey via **visual content** of the image?
Contrasting 3 Uncle Sams

1: July 17, 1915

2: February 1, 1917

3: April 2, 1917
What does the artist convey via visual content of the image?
Context: What do the date and title of the cartoon connect it to its time?

Cartoon Title: “Reporting for Duty”

Date: April 2, 1917

65th Congress meets to hear President Wilson’s War Message April 2, 1917
Constitutional Context:

United States Constitution
Article 1 Section 8

Congress shall have the power to…

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;
Point of View: What is the artist’s point of view on the events?
What “hooks” make this a good teaching document?
How does this cartoon relate to the guiding question?

Which principle prevailed in U.S. foreign policy between 1914 and 1941: avoiding foreign entanglements or providing world leadership?
Topic 3: Post-War Challenges, 1918 – 1919:

Documents 7 – 9

Cartoon 45

"In the World Spotlight"

The Evening Star
October 8, 1919

This cartoon suggests that the world is looking to the U.S. to lead in shaping the post-war international order. Read more about the history of this cartoon.
Document 7

Cartoon Title: “In the World Spotlight”

Date: October 8, 1918

Armistice: November 11, 1918
What does the artist convey via **visual content** of the image?
Document 8

What does the artist convey via **visual content** of the image?
Context: What do the date and title of the cartoon connect it to its time?

Cartoon Title: “The New Peril”

Date: January 10, 1919
Point of View: What is the artist’s point of view on the events?
What “hooks” make this a good teaching document?
2. That the United States declines to assume, under the provisions of Article X, or under any other Article, any obligation to preserve the territorial integrity or political independence of any other country whether a member of the League or not, or to employ the military or naval forces of the United States, or to adopt economic measures, for the protection of any other country, whether a member of the League or not, against external aggression or for the purpose of coercing any other country, or for the purpose of intervention in the internal conflicts which may arise in any other country, and no mandate shall be accepted by the United States under Article XXII, Part
How do documents 7 – 9 relate to the guiding question?

Which principle prevailed in U.S. foreign policy between 1914 and 1941: avoiding foreign entanglements or providing world leadership?
Cartoon Title: “Untitled”

Date: August 27, 1928

The Kellogg-Briand Pact was an agreement to outlaw war signed on August 27, 1928
What does the artist convey via **visual content** of the image?
Context: What do the date and title of the cartoon connect it to its time?

Cartoon Title: “It’s a Good Act, but it’s Hard on the Spectators”

Date: August 20, 1939

Germany invades Poland, September 1, 1939
Point of View: What is the artist’s point of view on the events?
What “hooks” make this a good teaching document?
Cartoon Title: “Untitled”

Date: September 7, 1939

3 Isolationist Senators:

Hiram Johnson of California: Johnson sponsored the Neutrality Acts in Congress and opposed selling planes and arms to France.

William Borah of Idaho had opposed the Treaty of Versailles and was against America’s joining the League of Nations.

Gerald Nye of North Dakota had chaired an investigative committee harshly critical of U.S. entry into the World War I.
How does these cartoons relate to the guiding question?

Which principle prevailed in U.S. foreign policy between 1914 and 1941: avoiding foreign entanglements or providing world leadership?