

WWI LESSON

Graphic Organizer

3

Interpreting Visual Evidence: PROPAGANDA, DECODING AN IMAGE

NAME _____

Exhibition Areas:
Poster Art in All Exhibition Areas



When investigating the poster art in this lesson, remember to use the **Visual Thinking Strategy**:

- What is going on in this image?
- What do you see that makes you think that?
- What more can we find?

Propaganda is

Investigate the symbolism, text, emotion, color, lighting, and form when trying to determine the message!



“I Want You” (1917)

Artist: James Montgomery Flagg
Printer: Leslie-Judge Co., New York
Publisher: United States Army
New York State Library, Manuscripts and
Special Collections

“Uncle Sam Wants You” poster by James Montgomery Flagg

What is going on in this image?

What do you see that makes you think that?

What more can we find?



“Beat Back the Hun with Liberty Bonds” (1918)
Artist: Frederick Strothmann
Printer: Unknown
Publisher: Treasury Department
 New York State Library, Manuscripts and Special Collections



“Joan of Arc Saved France” (1918)
Artist: Haskell Coffin
Printer: United States Printing & Lithograph Company
Publisher: War Savings Stamps Campaign, U.S. Treasury Department
 New York State Library, Manuscripts and Special Collections

<p>“Beat back the Hun” poster by Frederick Strothmann and “Joan of Arc Saved France” poster by Haskell Coffin</p>
<p>Compare and contrast depictions of German and French people:</p>
<p>How might German-Americans react to this?</p>
<p>How might American view German-Americans?</p>
<p>Why would an artist emphasize Joan of Arc as a savior of France to motivate American women?</p>
<p>Can these posters tell us anything about gender roles in society during that era?</p>
<p>What is the symbolism of the weapons in each poster, and the water in the first poster?</p>
<p>What motivational themes do these posters have in common?</p>
<p>What emotions does each poster aim to generate within the viewer?</p>
<p>What do these two images convey about the horror or gallantry of modern warfare?</p>



“Civilization Calls” (1917)
 Artist: James Montgomery Flagg
 Printer: Hegeman Print, New York, NY
 New York State Library, Manuscripts and Special Collections



“Men Wanted To Build Aeroplanes” (1917)
 Artist: E.W. Pirson
 Publisher: Curtiss Aeroplane Company, Buffalo, NY
 New York State Library, Manuscripts and Special Collections



“Raised ‘em Myself” (1919)
 Artist: Anonymous
 Printer: American Lithographic Co., New York, NY
 Publisher: United States School Garden Army, Bureau of Education, Department of the Interior
 New York State Museum Collections, H-1975.85.4

<p>COMPARE AND CONTRAST THE FOLLOWING POSTERS:</p> <p>“Civilization Calls” by James Montgomery Flagg</p> <p>“Men Wanted To Build Aeroplanes” by E.W. Pirson</p> <p>Raised ‘em Myself” by Anonymous Artist</p>	
<p>How do these images help motivate a society engaged in “total war”?</p>	
<p>How do these posters counter the ideas of pacifism and American neutrality?</p>	
<p>What ideas of self-sacrifice are contained within each poster?</p> <p>“Civilization Calls”</p> <p>“Men Wanted To Build Aeroplanes”</p> <p>“Raised ‘em Myself”</p>	
<p>How do these images bring the life and death struggle to Americans at home?</p> <p>What symbols of American patriotism are contained in each image?</p> <p>“Civilization Calls”</p> <p>“Men Wanted To Build Aeroplanes”</p> <p>“Raised ‘em Myself”</p>	
<p>How do the text and images support each other in each poster?</p>	
<p>What importance did food production play in society?</p>	
<p>What role does propaganda play in society?</p>	