Philippine-American War Political Cartoon Lesson Plan

Central Historical Question:
Why did the United States annex the Philippines after the Spanish-American War?

Materials:
- Copies of U.S. in the Philippines Timeline
- Copies of Rudyard Kipling's 'White Man's Burden'
- Copies of Philippine-American War Political Cartoon Graphic Organizer
- Philippine-American War Political Cartoons PPT
- Copies of Philippine-American War Political Cartoons (slides #3- #14) ***Print out PowerPoint slides.***

Plan of Instruction:

1. Do Now: Hand out U.S. in the Philippines Timeline and have students follow along as you lecture on basic chronology of the war:

    o *U.S. went to war with Spain in Cuba.*
    o *U.S. also sent ships to the Philippines and destroyed the Spanish fleet there.*
    o *After U.S. won in Cuba, they bought the Philippines for $20 million.*
    o *Instead of supporting Aguinaldo and Philippine Independence, they decided to annex the Philippines; this led to a long war.*

3. Explain that American imperialism at the turn of the century was influenced by cultural attitudes of superiority.

    Hand out Rudyard Kipling's 'White Man's Burden' and have students answer questions in pairs. Explain that Kipling's poem exemplifies Western imperialistic attitudes. (Depending on kids' skill level, you might need to do this is as a whole class).

4. TRANSITION: *Today we're going to be looking at political cartoons. The big difference between regular cartoons and political cartoons is that political cartoons have messages about current events.*

    During this time in history, different magazines had different opinions on expansion and the Philippine-American War.

    Magazines like Judge *and* Puck *supported expansion. Magazines like* Life *and* The World *did not.*

Hand out Graphic Organizer for political cartoons. POINT OUT CLUES ON FRONT OF GRAPHIC ORGANIZER.

Show Slides #1 and #2 (i.e., Example 1 and Example 2) and go over Graphic Organizer with students. Have students fill in the empty boxes for Examples 1 and 2.

5. Divide class into SIX GROUPS and hand each group ONE SET OF 2 CARTOONS (Set A, B, C, D, E, **OR** F). Have kids fill out Graphic Organizer for the political cartoons in their set.

6. Each group presents ONE of the cartoons in their set.

7. Discussion:
   • How is America depicted differently by advocates and critics of American expansion?
   • What do these cartoons tell you about America in the 1890s?
   • Do you see images like this today? Why or why not?

Citation:

Abe Ignacio, Enrique de la Cruz, Jorge Emmanuel, and Helen Toribio, *The Forbidden Book: The Philippine-American War in Political Cartoons*. San Francisco: T'boli Publishing, 2004.

Rudyard Kipling, The White Man's Burden, 1899

This famous poem, written by Britain's imperial poet, was a response to the American takeover of the Philippines after the Spanish-American War. Read the poem to yourself THREE TIMES before beginning to answer the questions.

Take up the White Man's burden--
Send forth the best ye breed--
Go bind your sons to exile
To serve your captives' need;
To wait in heavy harness,
On fluttered folk and wild--
Your new-caught, sullen peoples,
Half-devil and half-child.

Take up the White Man's burden--
And reap his old reward:
The blame of those ye better,
The hate of those ye guard--
The cry of hosts ye humour
(Ah, slowly!) toward the light:--
"Why brought he us from bondage,
Our loved Egyptian night?"

Take up the White Man's burden--
Ye dare not stoop to less--
Nor call too loud on Freedom
To cloak your weariness;
By all ye cry or whisper,
By all ye leave or do,
The silent, sullen peoples
Shall weigh your gods and you.

Vocabulary
<u>Burden</u>: a heavy responsibility
<u>Breed</u>: children
<u>Harness</u>: boring daily work
<u>Fluttered</u>: unsteady
<u>Folk</u>: people
<u>Sullen</u>: bad-tempered; gloomy
<u>Cloak</u>: hide

Guiding Questions:

1. According to Kipling, what is the 'White Man's Burden?'

2. Based on this poem, how did **imperialists** (people who supported annexation) think of the people in the countries they were taking over (i.e., Cuba, Philippines, etc.)?

3. Kipling supported U.S. annexation of the Philippines. What might someone say who disagreed with Kipling?