

WWI Maps & Propaganda Posters

First, walk around the reading room and seminar room of the Map Library. Spend some time looking at the individual maps, atlases, and posters we have chosen for the class visit. After your initial viewing, list three observations and/or questions you have about the items as they relate to your study of World War I and propoganda.

1)

2)

3)

Once you've looked at everything, pick out:

The poster you liked the most:

Because...

The map you liked the most:

Because...

Analyze a WWI Poster

Meet the poster.

Write the title of the poster:

Quickly scan the poster. What do you notice first? Jot down some details:

Observe its parts.

WORDS

Does it have a message printed on it?

Are there questions or instructions?

Does it say who created it?

VISUALS

List the people, objects, places, and activities in the poster.

What are the main colors used?

Are there any symbols?

In the space below, **make a rough sketch** of some of the poster's details which you think are significant. This sketch is not about your artistic ability; it's more about the act of close looking.

Try to make sense of it.

Who do you think is the intended audience?

Why was it created? List evidence from the poster that tells you this.

If symbols are used, are they easy to interpret? What might they represent?

Does the poster try to persuade mainly through words, visuals, or both equally? Is it effective?

Does this poster try to influence viewers with emotion, reason, or both? Is it effective?

Connect it to another poster or a map.

Choose any other poster or persuasive map on display that, in your opinion, connects in some way to the poster you already investigated. Consider messages, symbols, imagery, audiences, propaganda techniques, etc.

Write the title of the poster or map:

What connections can you make between the two artifacts?

Use them as historical evidence.

When you have finished working on your individual sources, interview a classmate about the objects they worked on during this visit. What did you find out from these maps and posters that you might not learn anywhere else? Think about the ways in which original artifacts can help historians come to a richer understanding of a specific topic.

Think about their significance.

What social constructs (race, gender, religion, ethnicity, etc?) are used in these artifacts? Why are these constructions used?

What would you envision the impact of these images would be on future historical events?