

Answer Key: Library of Congress World War I Posters

Guided Reading & Exploration

Overview:

The U.S. Library of Congress' Prints and Photographs Online Catalog (PPOC) is a rich collection of primary historical documents with particular emphasis on the lives and achievements of the American people. You will explore the PPOC's collection of WWI posters using the Library of Congress' website in order to learn about the purpose, variety, and effectiveness of propaganda posters during WWI.

Directions:

1. Access the following website:
<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/wwipos/background.html>
2. The questions below will guide you through the information on this webpage and its linked resources. Respond to the questions as you read and review the materials.

Introduction

- 1) Coupled with their vibrant designs, propaganda posters possessed the ability to _____, _____, and _____.
(inspire, inform, persuade)
- 2) As a valuable historic research resource, the posters provide _____ for understanding this global conflict.
(multiple points of view)

World War I and the Role of the Poster

- 3) The assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand ignited the war in _____ (1914), and the United States joined the Allied forces in _____ (1917).
- 4) The poster was a major tool for the broad dissemination of _____ during the war. (information)
- 5) Posters were distributed widely to garner _____, urge _____, and boost _____. (support, action, morale)
- 6) The _____ produced more posters than any other country. (United States)
- 7) Compared to the somber appearance of German posters, the imagery in American posters is more _____. (positive)

Poster Themes: *Enlistment and Recruitment Posters*

8) Many posters asked men to _____ the military forces. (join)

9) **LOOK CLOSER:** *Bahamas Recruitment Posters*

Open the “view Bahamas recruitment posters” link (<https://bit.ly/2TYhnFp>).
 In your opinion, how does the language on these posters “illustrate the point that this war involved many parts of the world beyond the actual battlegrounds”? Explain what you think below.

10) While women could not be recruited, posters influenced women to serve through relief organizations such as the _____, the _____, or through _____. (YWCA, Red Cross, government jobs)

11) In both Great Britain and the United States, the _____ was formed, for which women worked the land to replace the farmers who were serving in the military. (Women’s Land Army)

12) **LOOK CLOSER:** *Enlistment Posters and Posters Aimed at Women*

Open the “View enlistment posters” link (<https://bit.ly/2HvF02f>) and the “View selected women’s recruitment and relief agency posters” link (<https://bit.ly/2WfGv8h>).
 Pick out a poster from each collection that you think is particularly effective, then describe them below.

<i>Enlistment Posters</i>	<i>Women’s Recruitment & Relief Agency Posters</i>
<i>Title of Poster:</i>	<i>Title of Poster:</i>
<i>Creator:</i>	<i>Creator:</i>
<i>Date Created/Published:</i>	<i>Date Created/Published:</i>
<i>Imagery/Colors/Text on Poster:</i>	<i>Imagery/Colors/Text on Poster:</i>
<i>Why is this an effective poster?</i>	<i>Why is this an effective poster?</i>

Poster Themes: *Posters for War Bonds and Funds*

- 13) Those who did not enlist were asked to do their part by purchasing _____ or subscribing to _____. (bonds, war loans)
- 14) An example of finance posters using *numismatic* (relating to or consisting of coins, paper currency, and medals) imagery to illustrate their point is when coins transform into _____, crush the enemy, or become _____ in the war effort. (bullets, shields)
- 15) **LOOK CLOSER:** *War Bonds and Funds Posters*

Open the "View selected war bonds and funds posters" link (<https://bit.ly/2HvF02f>). Pick two posters to compare below, then decide which poster you think is more effective and why.

Poster #1 Title:

Poster #2 Title:

Creator:

Creator:

Date Created/Published:

Date Created/Published:

Text on Poster:

Text on Poster:

Imagery/Colors on Poster:

Imagery/Colors on Poster:

Is there numismatic imagery? If so, describe.

Is there numismatic imagery? If so, describe.

In your opinion, which of these two posters is more effective at influencing viewers to purchase bonds or funds to support the war? Why? Explain what you think below.

Poster Themes: *Posters Dealing with Food Issues*

- 16) _____ were widespread in Europe during the war. (Food shortages)
- 17) Americans were expected to adjust their eating habits in order to _____ food so it could be sent overseas. (conserve)
- 18) Americans were told to go _____ and _____ and to eat more _____ and _____. (meatless, wheatless, corn, fish)
- 19) Americans were also encouraged to plant _____ gardens and to _____ fruits and vegetables. (victory, can)
- 20) In Great Britain, _____ were collected for the wounded to aid in their recovery. (eggs)
- 21) **LOOK CLOSER:** *Food Issues Posters*

<p>Open the "View selected food issues posters" link (https://bit.ly/2HAPZHW).</p> <p>Look through each of the posters and complete the chart below.</p> <p><i>(Note that some posters are in French and German. Feel free to translate the text, or focus on the English posters.)</i></p>	
<p><i>The poster I like the best:</i></p> <p>Because...</p>	<p><i>The poster that uses fear the best:</i></p> <p>Because...</p>
<p><i>The poster that uses guilt the best:</i></p> <p>Because...</p>	<p><i>The poster with the best text:</i></p> <p>Because...</p>
<p><i>The poster with the best imagery:</i></p> <p>Because...</p>	<p><i>The poster I like the least:</i></p> <p>Because...</p>

Poster Themes: *National Symbols*

22) Many of the posters rely on _____ to illustrate their point.

(symbolism)

23) The symbol that frequently represented the United States on posters was

_____. (Uncle Sam)

24) Germany was often depicted as a caricature called a _____. This

caricature was usually wearing a _____ (spiked helmet) and was often

covered in _____. (pickelhaube, blood)

25) **LOOK CLOSER:** *National Symbols on Posters*

Open the "View selected national symbols posters" link (<https://bit.ly/2HAPZHW>).
Look through each of the posters and choose two to compare.

Poster #1 Title:	Poster #2 Title:
<i>Creator:</i>	<i>Creator:</i>
<i>Date Created/Published:</i>	<i>Date Created/Published:</i>
<i>Text on Poster:</i>	<i>Text on Poster:</i>
<i>What symbolic figures are on the poster? (Hint: Read the summary of the poster)</i>	<i>What symbolic figures are on the poster? (Hint: Read the summary of the poster)</i>
<i>How are these symbols sized and positioned on the poster?</i>	<i>How are these symbols sized and positioned on the poster?</i>
<i>What is the effect of this size and placement?</i>	<i>What is the effect of this size and placement?</i>
<i>What do you imagine may have been the effect of these symbols on viewers during this time period?</i>	<i>What do you imagine may have been the effect of these symbols on viewers during this time period?</i>