

Teacher Key: Votes for Women, WWI & the Peace

What each labeled part shows. These describe the image only. Each cartoon was made by someone with a point of view, noted under "Viewpoint." Let students build and defend their own readings.

Station 1: Election Day! (1909)

Context: Made in 1909, when women could vote in only a few western states.

A: A wall sign reading "Votes for Women."

B: A man sitting in a chair holding two crying babies.

C: A woman in a hat and coat, about to head out the door.

Viewpoint: Argues against women's suffrage by imagining what would happen at home.

Source: E.W. Gustin, Postcard/print, 1909. Library of Congress: www.loc.gov/item/97500226/. Public domain.

Station 2: The Awakening (1915)

Context: Published in February 1915. The white western states are those where women could already vote. A poem by Alice Duer Miller runs below.

A: A woman in a robe carrying a torch, striding east across the map.

B: Dark eastern states filled with women reaching toward her.

C: Her cape, lettered "Votes for Women."

Viewpoint: Supports women's suffrage.

Source: Henry "Hy" Mayer, Puck, 1915. Library of Congress: www.loc.gov/item/98502844/. Public domain.

Station 3: If You Are Good Enough for War You Are Good Enough to Vote (1917)

Context: Drawn after the U.S. entered World War I, when many women worked as nurses and in war industries.

A: A sleeve labeled "American Womanhood" on a woman dressed as a nurse.

B: A sleeve labeled "Public Opinion" on Uncle Sam.

C: Uncle Sam looking down at her.

Viewpoint: Supports women's suffrage. The round stamp is from a German archive that collected the clipping.

Source: Morris, Newspaper cartoon, 1917. Library of Congress: www.loc.gov/item/2002698238/. Public domain.

Station 4: Forming the League of Nations (1918)

Context: Drawn as World War I ended. Wilson's Fourteen Points proposed a League of Nations to settle disputes between countries.

A: A framed picture on the wall of a crown above a money bag with a dollar sign.

B: A paper on the table handwritten "14 points."

C: A sign on an easel reading "League of Nations."

Viewpoint: Gropper was a radical (left-wing) cartoonist who distrusted governments and business leaders.

Source: William Gropper, Drawing, 1918. Library of Congress: www.loc.gov/item/97518251/. Public domain.

Station 5: The Gap in the Bridge (1919)

Context: Published in December 1919, after the U.S. Senate first voted against the Treaty of Versailles. The bridge stones read Belgium, France, England and Italy.

A: A sign: "This League of Nations bridge was designed by the President of the U.S.A."

B: A stone labeled "Keystone USA" sitting off to the side.

C: Uncle Sam leaning back, relaxing, next to the keystone.

Viewpoint: A British view, critical of the U.S. staying out.

Source: Leonard Raven-Hill, Punch (London), 1919. Punch (via Wikimedia Commons): commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Gap_in_the_Bridge.png. Public domain.

Station 6: Refusing to Give the Lady a Seat (1919)

Context: Senators William Borah, Henry Cabot Lodge and Hiram Johnson led opposition to the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations.

A: A woman with wings and a robe labeled "Peace," standing and holding a strap.

B: A seated man labeled "Borah."

C: A seated man in a top hat labeled "Lodge." A third man is labeled "Johnson."

Viewpoint: Kirby's paper supported the treaty; Lodge and others argued the League would limit U.S. independence.

Source: Rollin Kirby, New York World, 1919. Library of Congress: www.loc.gov/item/2016682645/. Public domain.