

TEACHER GUIDE

1832 DOC. #1: "Aristocrat / Workingman" Cartoon

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

With Jackson's presidency, issues of economic class came to the foreground in new ways. This had to do with the new voting rights of white male workers, farmers, and frontiersmen. Although Jackson was himself a wealthy man his followers often were not. The struggle between the representatives of "big money" and poorer classes was an issue of concern then as it remains today.

Political cartoons became an important form of communication in the early 19th century as more voters became literate and as increasing numbers of people had access to newspapers. The cartoon you will see was first printed in a New York newspaper. "Tammany" refers to the Tammany Society, a Republican political organization based in New York City, which had the reputation for using money and influence to decide elections.

> **Project 1832 doc. #1a.**

QUESTION	Which one of the two voters in the middle represents the aristocrat and which the workingman? Why do you think so?
SUGGESTED ANSWER	The aristocrat is on the left and the workingman is on right.
EVIDENCE	aristocrat is dressed in suit coat, top hat and is slightly larger and in foreground, thus more powerful; workingman has sleeves rolled up for work, with no jacket or hat

> **Project 1832 doc. #1b. Ask students to read the text.**

QUESTION	What messages are given about the aristocrat and elections? Give evidence to justify your answer.
SUGGESTED ANSWER	The aristocrat is evil, conspiring with the Devil to buy votes and further reduce the rights of poor and working people.
EVIDENCE	aristocrat communicating with the Devil; text: "We are in favour of Monarchy, Aristocracy, Monopolies, Auctions, laws that oppress the Poor"; the devil's votes "will all help you to grind the workies"; the aristocrat is buying votes from Tammany "or the POOR will get their rights"

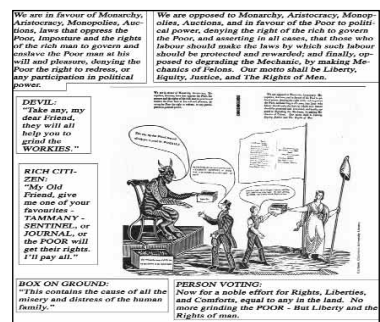
1832 DOC. #1a



"Aristocrat / Workingman" Cartoon (No Text Boxes)

PowerPoint Slide

1832 DOC. #1b



"Aristocrat / Workingman" Cartoon (With Text Boxes)

PowerPoint Slide

QUESTION **What messages are being given about the workingman and elections? What is your evidence?**

SUGGESTED ANSWER Workingmen are on the side of good and should use the vote to gain political power and equality for all.

EVIDENCE the workingman is casting a vote in a box held by Lady Liberty; "We are opposed to Monarchy, Aristocracy, Monopolies, Auctions, and in favour of the Poor to political power"; "Our motto shall be Liberty, Equity, Justice, and The Rights of Men."

QUESTION **Is this image pro-Democrat or pro-Republican? Why?**

SUGGESTED ANSWER It's pro-Democrat.

EVIDENCE in the early and middle 19th century Democrats were seen as the party of the common man and the Republicans were perceived as the party of the wealthy

QUESTION **Who is the "new" target audience for this cartoon?**

SUGGESTED ANSWER The new target audience consists of white male voters who sympathize with workers and the poor.

EVIDENCE readers' sympathies are directed toward the workers' "gallant" struggle for rights and against the aristocrats who conspire to take away those rights; this is a new target audience due to the lifting of property qualifications allowing voting rights for white men who are not landowners

FURTHER QUESTIONS

How have issues of class and privilege been raised in campaigns in recent times? Discuss how these issues have changed over time.

CONNECTIONS

(see thematic listing)

Cartoons

Class/Labor

Reaching Voters (cartoons)

Target Audience (skilled craftsmen)

Class conflict has been a consistent theme throughout U.S. elections.

Compare the sentiments of this 1832 cartoon with Ralph Nader's TV commercial from the 2000 campaign (2000 doc. #4c).