

Teaching with Primary Sources Lesson Outline

Grade Level: Middle School (6)

Standard(s) or Objectives: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.3: Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text (e.g., through examples or anecdotes).
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.5: Analyze how a particular sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the ideas.

Library of Congress or Morris Special Collections Resources:



Mary Darly, “[America toe] her [miss]taken [moth]er,” May 11, 1778

<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2004673351/>

Topic Background:

A rebus, in which pictures represent words, was a favorite amusement in the eighteenth century. [America toe] her [miss]taken [moth]er (America to her mistaken mother) is the second of a pair of political satires in which Britain asks America to reconsider her alliance with France by accepting an offer of peace from the Carlisle Commissioners sent by Britain. America, depicted as an Indian woman holding an American flag, rejects Britain's attempts.

Excerpted from: <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/creating-the-united-states/revolution-of-the-mind.html#obj17>

Source(s) Used:

The accepted translation is as follows: America to her mistaken mother. You silly old woman, that you have sent a dove to us is very plain, to draw our attention from our real interests, but we are determined to abide by our own ways of thinking. Your five children you have sent to us shall be treated as visitors and safely sent home again. You may trust them and admire them, but you must not expect one of your puppets will come home to you as sweet as you sent him. 'Twas cruel to send so pretty a man so many thousand miles and to have the fatigue of returning back after bobbing his coat and dirtying those red-heeled shoes. If you are wise, follow your own advice you gave to me. Take home your ships [and] soldiers. Guard well your own trifling and leave me to my self, as I am at age to know my own interests without your foolish advice, and know that I shall always regard you and my brothers as relations but not as friends. I am your greatly injured Daughter Amerik.

Excerpted from: <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2004673351/>

Answer Key:

Question 1: C

Question2: B

Mary Darly, "[America toe] her [miss]taken [moth]er," May 11, 1778



Questions:

1) Which of the following best describes how America is represented in the rebus? (CCSS-RI6.3)

- a. America is represented by a man in a blue coat.
- b. America is represented by a shoe.
- c. America is represented by a Native American woman.
- d. America is represented by a large ship.

2) The last five lines read:

“Guard well your own trifling and leave me to my self, as I am at age to know my own interests without your foolish advice, and know that I shall always regard you and my brothers as relations but not as friends. I am your greatly injured Daughter Amerik.”

How are these lines important to the rest of the rebus? (CCSS-RI6.5)

- a. They show that the colonies will consider reuniting with Great Britain.
- b. They show that the colonies know they have a connection with Great Britain, but that they are not interested in a close relationship.
- c. They show that the colonies appreciate the advice of the messengers sent by Great Britain and will consider the advice.
- d. They show that the colonies want no connections or relationship with Great Britain.