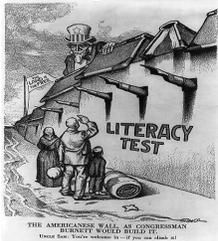


Assessing with Primary Sources

Grade Level: 8

Standard(s) or Objectives: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.2: Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.5: Analyze in detail the structure of a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept.

Library of Congress Resources:



The Americanese wall - as Congressman [John Lawson] Burnett would build it. 1916. Uncle Sam, behind high wall marked "Literacy Test" which is spiked with pen points, says to immigrant family below: "You're welcome, if you can climb it".

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2006681433/>

Topic Background:

From its beginnings, the United States has been shaped by people from many nations. Some of the men considered today to have been the founders of the United States were born far from the thirteen original colonies. Alexander Hamilton, for example, was born on the island of St. Kitts in the British West Indies. Nonetheless, issues surrounding immigration and citizenship have caused debate—and controversy--since the 1790s.

Excerpted from:

http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/immigration/pdf/teacher_guide.pdf

Source(s) Used:

The source used for this assessment is a political cartoon created in 1916 and depicting the struggles immigrants had when trying to gain citizenship in the United States.

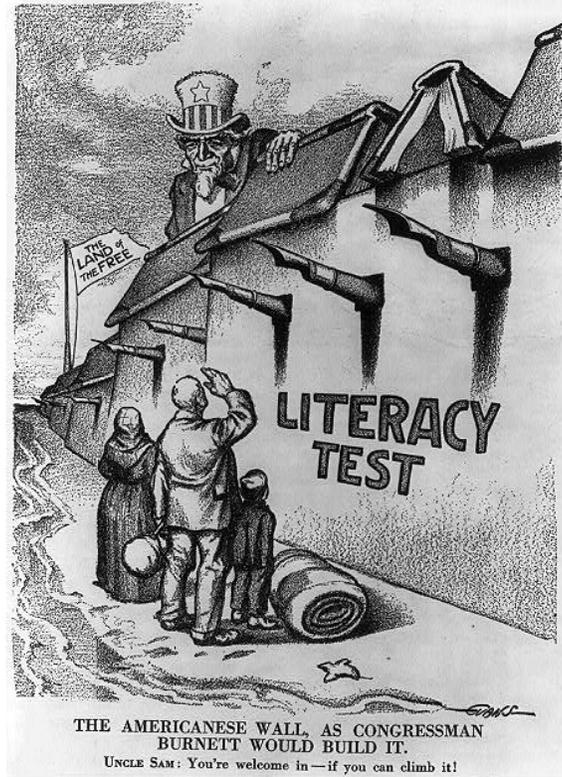
Answer Key:

Question 1: D

Question 2: B

Directions: Look at the image below then answer the questions that follow.

Immigrating to the U.S.: Americanese wall (political cartoon from 1916)



Question 1: This political cartoon was most likely the result of which of the following?
(CCSS.RI.8.2)

- A. Compulsory literacy tests in all American public schools in 1918.
- B. American families ready to climb walls to prove they passed the literacy test.
- C. Uncle Sam becoming a national symbol in the United States of America.
- D. Strict procedures like literacy test, for immigrants to gain access to the U.S.

Question 2: What could you argue that it best describes what the wall represents?
(CCSS.RI.8.5)

- A. The entrance into the United States.
- B. The literacy test that immigrants had to take.
- C. This family's struggle with English language.
- D. The clear image of a school created by Uncle Sam.