

Teaching with Primary Sources Lesson Outline

Grade Level: Middle School (6-8)

Standard(s) or Objectives: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.6: Identify aspects of a text that reveal an author's point of view or purpose (e.g., loaded language, inclusion or avoidance of particular facts).

Library of Congress or Morris Special Collections Resources:



Tenement House Dept. of the City of New York, "Help your neighborhood by keeping your premises clean." 1937

<https://www.loc.gov/item/98513680/>

Topic Background:

The Federal Art Project (FAP) was created in 1935 to provide work relief for artists in various media--painters, sculptors, muralists and graphic artists, with various levels of experience. Holger Cahill, a curator and fine and folk art expert, was appointed director of the program. As with the other Federal cultural projects of the time, the program sought to bring art and artists into the everyday life of communities throughout the United States, through community art centers, exhibitions and classes.

Excerpted from: <https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/newdeal/fap.html>

Source(s) Used:

The source used in this assessment is a poster promoting better living conditions by keeping tenement neighborhoods clean. Poster reads, "Help your neighborhood by keeping your premises clean" and was distributed by the Tenement House Dept. of the City of New York : F.H. La Guardia, Mayor : Langdon W. Post, Commissioner. Depicts a messy tenement area with clothes hung to dry outside and waste left all over the ground.

Excerpted from: <http://aphdigital.org/gvh/items/show/1772>

Answer Key:

Question 1: C

Question 2: C

Tenement House Dept. of the City of New York, “Help your neighborhood by keeping your premises clean.” 1937



Questions:

- 1) Which of these words is closest in meaning to “premises”? (CCSS-RH6-8.4)
 - a. Garage
 - b. House
 - c. Property
 - d. Apartment

- 2) Which detail(s) in the poster best expresses the views and goals of the “Tenement House Department of the City of New York”? (CCSS-RH6-8.6)
 - a. The bright yellow color of the buildings in the background shows that tenement houses are bright and cheery places to live.
 - b. The hanging clothes show that people living in tenements had to hang their clothes outside in order to dry.
 - c. The items at the bottom of the poster show that people living in tenements often left their goods and trash on the ground surrounding tenements.
 - d. The red and gray colors of the tenement buildings show that these dwellings were dark, dangerous places for families to live.