

Teaching with Primary Sources Lesson Outline

Grade Level:	Middle School (6-8)
Standard(s) or Objectives:	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.1: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.5: Describe how a text presents information (e.g., sequentially, comparatively, causally).

Library of Congress or Morris Special Collections Resources:



Vaughn Shoemaker, "Local boy makes good." 1944

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2005680594/>

Topic Background:

Although players were enlisting or being drafted into the armed forces from the beginning, there existed an undertone of displeasure towards seemingly fit men participating in sports and apparently evading military duties. Some thought baseball squandered manpower and should be shut down for the duration. In hindsight, this attitude is understandable, but there is little doubt that for the overwhelming majority baseball was a major morale booster throughout the war years. In response to the negative undertones, *The Sporting News* took it upon themselves, in April 1942, to ask servicemen for their view on the situation - should baseball continue while they fight and perhaps die for democracy and freedom? An abundance of replies besieged the offices of *The Sporting News* in St Louis strongly backing the President's directive to keep baseball going. Private John E Stevenson, based at Fort Dix, New Jersey, wrote, "Baseball is part of the American way of life. Remove it and you remove something from the lives of American citizens, soldiers and sailors." Private Clifford P Mansfield at Fort Knox, Kentucky reiterated, "For the morale of the soldier and the morale of America itself, 'keep 'em playing'."

Excerpted from: http://www.baseballinwartime.com/baseball_in_wwii/baseball_in_wwii.htm

Source(s) Used:

World War II cartoon shows an American G.I., puffed up with pride, carrying a paper with headline, "Cards and Browns Battle for World Title." A second soldier asks a third, "Did Joe get the Congressional Medal or something?" The third responds, "Naw, he's just from St. Louis." In the fall of 1944, the St. Louis Browns won their first American League pennant. In the World Series they faced the St. Louis Cardinals in the first all-St. Louis series. The Cards went on to win the series four games to two. Despite the war, American enthusiasm for baseball remained intense, and short-wave radio hookups transmitted a play-by-play description of the game to every theatre of the war.

Excerpted from: <https://www.loc.gov/item/2005680594/>

Answer Key:

Question 1: D

Question 2: A

Vaughn Shoemaker, "Local boy makes good." 1944



Questions:

- 1) How does the author show that Joe is proud that the Cardinals and Browns are playing against each other in the World Series? (CCSS-RH6-8.1)
 - a. The two soldiers in the background are talking about Joe.
 - b. Joe is reading a newspaper with the title "Card and Browns Battle for World Title."
 - c. A soldier says that Joe is "From St. Louis."
 - d. Joe has a puffed out chest.

- 2) Why is the bombed out building in the background important to the political cartoon? (CCSS-RH6-8.5)
 - a. It helps to show that Joe is serving in an active warzone, and yet, he keeps in touch with news from his hometown of St. Louis.
 - b. It helps to show that the two soldiers in the background are Joe's superiors within the warzone.
 - c. It helps to show that American troops were able to get newspapers within warzones.
 - d. It helps to show that one of the soldiers believed that Joe deserved the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions in battle.