

## TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT

### *Lesson Title – Pearl Harbor “And still we never suspected a thing”*

Grade - 11

Length of class period – 90 minutes

Inquiry –

Students will make a judgment as to the validity of a political cartoon about the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Objectives -

Students will research countries in the Pacific arena (in the late 1930s/1941.)

Students will analyze a political cartoon for content and validity.

Students will justify their position.

Materials -

A political cartoon from the Hartford Currant dated December 8, 1941

Activities –

- 1) Students will research in the Library/Media center in small groups the countries shown in the political cartoon (above) prior to WWII. Teacher will monitor and assist students.
- 2) Students will share briefly with classmates the results of their research. Teacher will prompt students and facilitate discussion.
- 3) Students will examine the political cartoon (above) using the Document Analysis Worksheet from the National Archives. Teacher will prompt students in searching for details in the cartoon.
- 4) Teacher will lead a class discussion about their findings.

### Assessment –

Students will write an essay evaluating the title of the political cartoon's validity. They will take a position. If in agreement, they must provide evidence to support their opinion from their research. If not in agreement, they must, in addition to supporting their opinion, create a new title for the cartoon.

### Connecticut Framework Performance Standards –

- evaluate data within the historical, social, political and economic context in which it was created, testing its credibility and evaluating its bias
- identify various parties and analyze their interest n conflict from selected historical periods