

POLITICAL CARTOON ACTIVITY

Have students find a political cartoon from a recent newspaper and bring it to share with the class. Encourage students to discuss the political cartoon with parents before bringing in their cartoon. Students should be able to discuss or tell about the meaning of their political cartoon as they present it to the rest of the class. (Enlarge the cartoon and make an overhead transparency for the student to use as he or she presents it.)

Make an overhead transparency or reproduce the political cartoons that follow. Discuss what each political cartoon means. Are there positive or negative connotations to the political cartoons? Who would have favored or supported these cartoons? Would Northern and/or Southern newspapers published these?

Have students work individually or in small groups to produce their own political cartoons. Before beginning, brainstorm ideas of possible political cartoons. Students could focus on the Civil War and Reconstruction Period or choose events and people from current times.

Possible topics:

- "Seward's Folly" (the acquisition of Alaska by Sec. of State Seward)
- Inventions such as cotton gin, telephone, electric lights, phonograph)
- John D. Rockefeller
- Railroads
- Immigrants
- Impeachment of Andrew Johnson
- Jefferson Davis
- Labor Conditions in factories (child labor)

After assigning topics, students should produce a political

cartoon and present it to their classmates. Showcase the Political Cartoons on a bulletin board.

LITICAL OYSTER HOUSE.
Hardshells & Softshells
Constantly on hand.
mocrats fried, Stewed, Roasted
or on the half Shell.



HONEST ABE TAKING THEM ON THE HALF SHELL..

Republican campaign cartoon of 1860 shows Lincoln ready to gulp his Soft Shell and Hard Shell Democratic opponen