

# Cartoons for the Classroom

Presented in cooperation with the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)



Clifford Berryman

## Talking points:

Write a short definition for each of the following.

Icon \_\_\_\_\_

Symbol \_\_\_\_\_

Cliche \_\_\_\_\_

What other symbols used in political cartoons today might qualify as icons -- symbols used so often they are immediately understood by everybody? Statue of Liberty might be one. The cigar-chomping fat guy in a suit as a representation for corporate America might be another. What else can you find?



## Get out your newspaper

Gather a week's worth of political cartoons from your newspaper. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and identify the symbols used. Which ones have you seen before? Are the symbols clear to you?

## Additional resources

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)  
<http://pc99.detnews.com/aaec/>

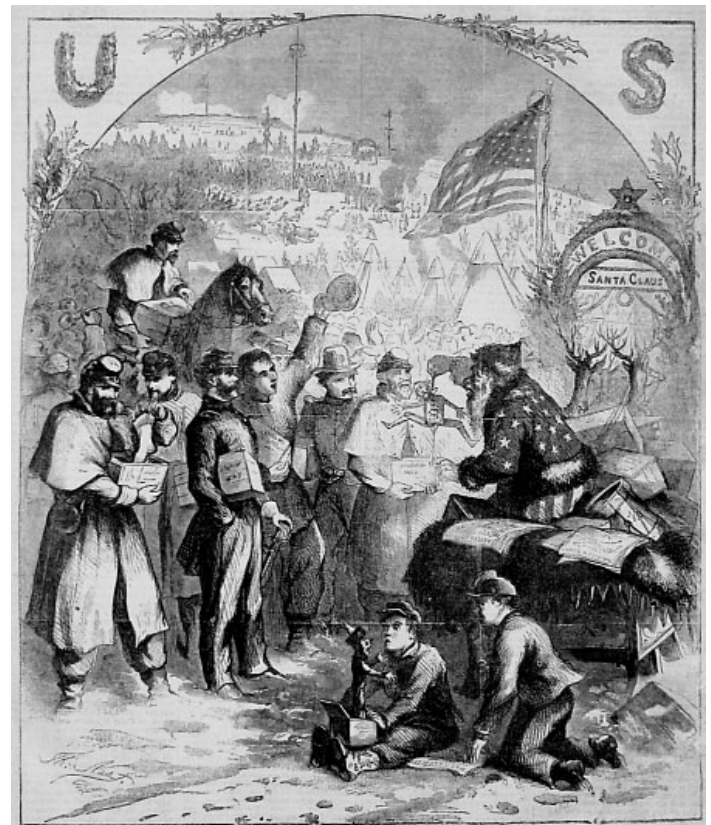
Topic suggested by Randy Bish / Tribune-Review, Pittsburgh, PA

## From toons to icons

Artists get credit for Teddy Bears, hot dogs, Uncle Sam and even Santa

As legend has it, Tad Dorgan sketched a cartoon of barking dachshund sausages nestled in warm buns in New York in the early 1900s and coined the term "Hot Dog." Unfortunately the tale doesn't hold up under further research. The toon doesn't exist. A shame, really.

But other icons of our culture can trace their roots to political cartoons and illustrations. Thomas Nast in the 1860s gets credit for the image of Santa Claus as well as for the donkey and elephant political symbols. Clifford Berryman's 1902 sketch showing President Theodore Roosevelt refusing to shoot a captured bear inspired a toy maker to name his stuffed toy a "Teddy Bear." The origin of Uncle Sam is a bit fuzzier, but James Montgomery Flagg's WWI recruiting poster, while not the first rendition, is likely the most famous.



Thomas Nast