

# Trudge On!

By Kathryn Krodel

## Objectives

- ~ Students will analyze a political cartoon from the Herblock cartoon collection located in the Library of Congress website.
- ~ Students will understand why FDR thought that the U.S. was threatened by what was going on in Europe and in the Atlantic waters.
- ~ Students will create their own political cartoon about an event that led to the U.S. entry into World War II.

## TEKS

U.S. History #'s **6a,9b,14a,15b,19b,24a,b,c,f,g, 25d**

## Time and Materials

- ~ One or two class periods.
- ~ Plain white paper or small poster type board.
- ~ Markers or crayons.

## Context

After the fall of France in 1940, Hitler had a 3,000 mile coastline from which to launch submarine attacks on Allied ships. Between July 1940 and December 1941, German U-Boats sank ship after ship including American merchant ships. In June 1941, President Roosevelt granted the navy permission for U.S. warships to attack German U-boats in self-defense.

## The Lesson

Have students analyze Herblock's cartoon from the Library of Congress looking for : Irony, Analogy, Labeling, Exaggeration, Symbolism.

Then ask them to answer the following questions by recording them in their class notebooks (or on a handout).

- ~ What issue is this political cartoon about?
- ~ What is the cartoonist's opinion on this issue?
- ~ What other opinion can you imagine another person having on this issue?
- ~ Did you find this cartoon persuasive? Why or why not?
- ~ What other techniques could the cartoonist have used to make this cartoon more persuasive?

## Extending the Lesson

Ask students to create their own political cartoon. The cartoon should portray any event (not including German U-boat attacks) that involved the provocation of the U.S. becoming involved in World War II. After their creation, have the students share their cartoons with a classmate.

The students will then apply the same above questions to their classmate's cartoon, recording their questions and answers in their class notebooks.

**Assessment:** What role did unrestricted submarine warfare play in the U.S. 's decision to enter WWII?

Multiple Choice

The United States was drawn into both World War I and World War II because of

- unrestricted submarine attacks
- the assassination of a political leader
- Germany's invasion of Poland
- Japan's attack on Hawaii

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WORKING ON HIM

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One of the principal problems faced by Roosevelt and Churchill was the enormous toll of shipping sunk by German submarines.

*Working on him*, 1941

Published by NEA Service, Inc. (13)

[LC-USZ62-127210](#)