

# How to Scaffold a Cartoon:

## A step by step approach

- 1 Select a cartoon appropriate for the history topic you are teaching.
- 2 Test that it photocopies clearly onto an overhead transparency. You are looking to see that it is not too dark and that the main elements of the cartoon can be easily seen by students.
- 3 Work out the 3 or 4 symbols/drawings that will be presented to the students so they can build up the message of the cartoon.
- 4 In font size 14 or 16, type the date, place of publication of the cartoon and the caption with any related dialogue.
- 5 **Sheet 1:**

Cut out the central drawings in the cartoon to leave the frame edge and the cartoonist's signature. Back this with a sheet of A 4 white paper and underneath the frame place the typed date and place of publication with invisible scotch tape. Photocopy this once, and after checking it for reproduction quality, make a transparency.
- 6 **Sheet 2:**

Select one major symbol or drawing. Cut it out from the complete cartoon minus the frame and cartoonist signature you cut for sheet 1. Place this cutout with invisible tape in the correct spot in the cartoon's frame. Photocopy this once and, after checking it for reproduction, make a transparency.
- 7 **Sheet 3:**

Select another major symbol or drawing. Cut it out from the complete cartoon minus the frame and cartoonist's signature you cut for sheet 1. Place the next symbol with invisible tape in the correct spot in the cartoon frame. Photocopy this once and, after checking it for reproduction, make a transparency.
- 8 **Sheet 4:**

Repeat the previous step until all the symbols/drawings are made into transparencies. When adding the last symbol/drawing, also add the caption and any related dialogue to the bottom of the frame.

**Note:** if you have access to a scanner and imaging software such as Adobe Photoshop, the above steps can be done on the computer and your sheets can be printed out for copying onto transparencies.
- 9 Write the questions you will ask the students as you present the transparencies and some extension questions if needed.