

“The Real Trouble Will Come with the Wake” (~20 min.)

Introduction

This is a **Connect** structure, focused on **making connections to a central topic**.

Learning Goal: Analyze the cartoon’s symbolism to evaluate how imperial ambitions of world powers were portrayed at the turn of the twentieth century.

Students identify and explain individual symbols in the cartoon, connecting each one to the artist’s argument about imperialism.

Before the Activity

Prep Your Structure

After **signing in**, click the button below to make a copy of the structure.

Clone Structure for Your Class

This structure features **customized badges** students can earn for their entries. Review & tweak these by choosing “Customize Badges” in the ... Special Features menu at the top right of your screen. When ready, select “Replicate Structure” to make more copies.

Prep Your Students

This cartoon analysis structure works well as a hook — put it on the screen and let students react before any instruction begins. Find a high res copy of the cartoon [here](#).

Set ground rules & norms with your students for using online activities and show them how to access your Superstructure:

- Go to [soops.io](#) and enter your structure’s unique code
- **OR**
- Go directly to your structure’s URL

During the Activity

Here are the instructions for students:

- Click the **pink** plus icon in the bottom right corner of the screen
- Type the symbol’s name as the title
- Pick a color for the entry
- Click Create & type an explanation of what the symbol represents and how it reflects the cartoon’s overall message

While your class contributes to the Superstructure, you can encourage them as they work, guide them with questions, and use Teacher View to gain insights about individual and class input.

After the Activity

We encourage teachers to lead a class discussion based on the Superstructure. You can ask a question in the Teacher View Class Insights panel to generate a customized discussion prompt, or consider asking one of these (designed for increasing ability levels):

- Which symbol in the cartoon did you find most interesting? Why?
- What does the cartoon suggest about how different world powers were approaching China in 1900?
- To what extent does this cartoon reflect the broader goals and tensions of the Age of Imperialism?

We hope your class enjoys and learns from this Superstructure. We welcome [feedback!](#)

This format of cartoon analysis can be adapted to use any political cartoon. Simply [clone this structure](#) and use the “Edit” option to change the Center Topic.