

Name: _____

Date: _____

OPEN TRAP *make* **HAPPY JAP**



KEEP 'EM Pulling for
VICTORY



Name:

Date:

Step one: Describe what you see in as much detail as possible. List information about images, colors, lines, placement of objects on the page, etc.

I see the words "Open trap make happy jap" and "Keep 'em pulling for victory." I see a door and door knob. I see a characture of a Japanese man listening to sounds through the door. I see a Japanese symbol on the man's hat. I see a truck and a red, white, and blue ribbon.

Step two: Identify basic information about this image. What do you know about it?

1. Who created it?

The American Government

2. When?

World War II

3. In what format or media was it distributed (for example, as a poster, a book, a film, an advertisement in a newspaper, etc.)?

A poster

4. Who do you think was the intended audience?

American citizens who might know war secret

Step three: Interpret this image. What do you think it means? What message do you think the creator of this piece intends to express? Provide specific evidence from the image to support your ideas.

I think that this image means Americans shouldn't talk about war secrets, so Japanese spies don't over hear. An "open trap" is when someone talks a lot. The poster says that open traps will make the Japanese happy. The Japanese man looks evil so I don't think Americans are supposed to want the Japanese to be happy.

How do you think this message might have influenced the attitudes and actions of the audience?

I think this poster would have made Americans think carefully about what war information they talked about outloud. I think it might have made Americans have a negative attitude about Japanese people.

Step four: Evaluate this image. Does this image utilize lies or misleading information to express its message? If so, how? In your opinion, does this image express a positive or a negative message? Explain.

Yes, this image uses misleading information because not all Japanese people are evil or spies, and this poster may have made people think that. Also, if there were Japanese spies, they did not actually listen at people's doors. This image expresses a negative message because war and spies are scary and it may have reinforced negative stereotypes about Japanese.

Purpose: To deepen understanding of propaganda and develop students' ability to interpret media.