

Lesson 2: Research Stations and Mini Lesson

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Lesson Plan

Objective: In this lesson, students will build their research skills by going more in depth on the complexities of the Banana Wars. Students will participate in research stations examining primary documents and analyzing the author's POV, purpose, and historical relation. Understand that this lesson can span into 2 days.

Mini Lesson

Directions: Before going into the research activity, you want to spend some time finishing up the mini lesson on “The Banana Wars”. Open up the discussion by asking students opening questions. This segment is very note heavy, so prepare to engage in some guided note strategies.

Materials

- Notebooks
- Folders
- Paper
- Pencils/pens
- Note-taking graphic organizer
- Slideshow

Opening Questions

- Based on the wars you’ve seen and “lived” through, what role does the United States often play?
- Do you think military intervention is always positive? If so, why?
- Do you think big corporations treat their workers fairly? If not, what kind of conditions do you expect.

Written Scenario Do Now: Have students do a short do now writing assignment. Then discuss with the students and engage in friendly debate. Below you'll find the scenario and some questions you can do to push students thinking.

1. Say you and your family started raising chickens. You collect, sell, and eat the eggs from your lovely farm. One day, your neighbor asks you to buy your eggs for a nice price. After that, you keep selling to your neighbor. However, you realize you don't have enough eggs for your family, and you tell your neighbor you need to sell less eggs. Your neighbor gets mad and threatens you and your family. He tells you that you can't give him less, so he raises the price but now expects more. You give in, and you tell your family you won't have eggs for a while. But then, as you're walking past your neighbor's house, you see that they're selling YOUR eggs for a higher price.
 - a. *But you didn't tell your neighbor they couldn't sell the eggs?*
 - b. *You could call the police, but what if the police really like him and ignore your complaints?*
 - c. *If you stop producing eggs, you lose a good source of income, so you need to have eggs. Opting out is not an option.*
 - d. *Let's say other neighbors also feel harassed and pressured. So they decide to revolt to kick that neighbor out. But you live right next to him and he knows your family. Would you kick him out and risk your families safety?*

Historical Background: Working Conditions and Civil Unrest

Let's think outside the corporation first. The United States wanted to have political and economic power in the Caribbean. After Panama declared independence from Colombia, The President of the United States (**the first war of the Banana Wars**), Theodore Roosevelt quickly got to creating the Panama Canal ([EBSCO | Panama Declares Independence from Colombia](#)). The United Fruit Company and other major corporations at the time, used the Panama Canal as a means to export the Caribbeans resources: Bananas, sugarcane, and other tropical fruits.

After establishing their companies and taking control over the production and exportation of bananas. Serval workers and citizens from different Caribbean countries like Nicaragua, disliked how the United fruit Company was exploiting its workers and controlling the politics.

Left wing groups and journalist would refer to the company as "El Pulpo" to signify its control over various institutions across the region.

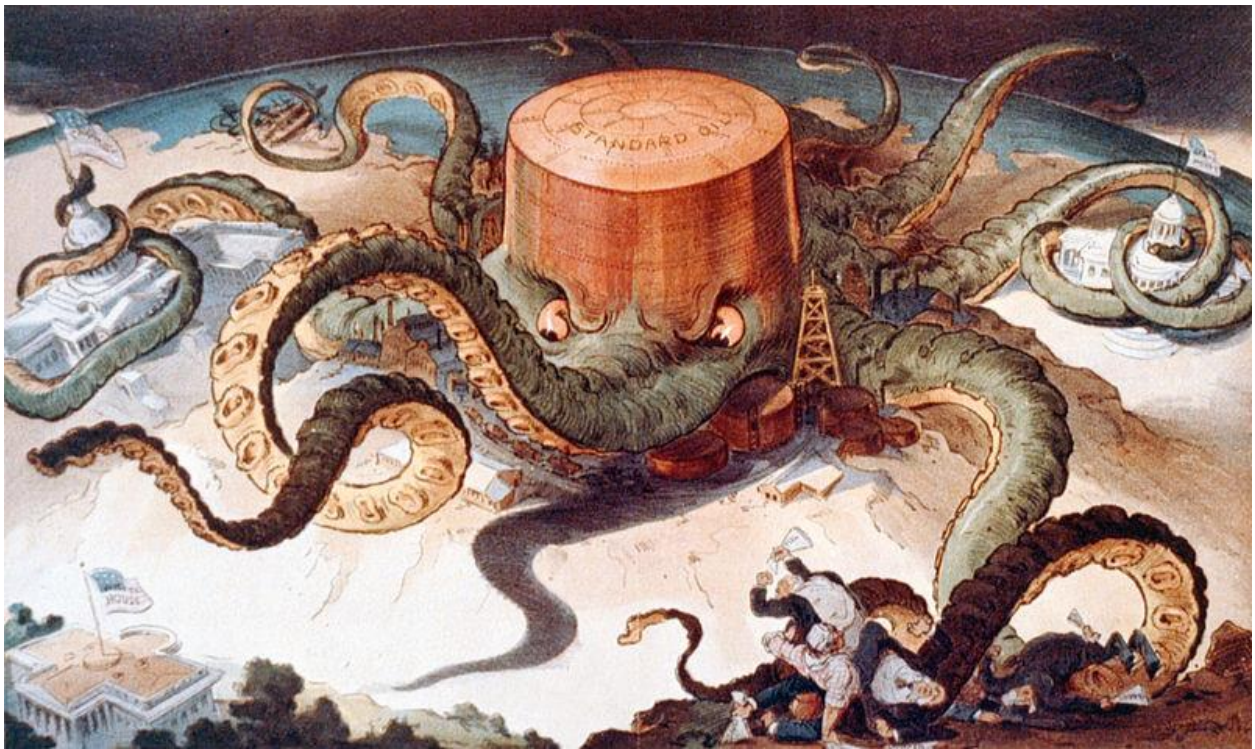
Vocabulary

- **Neocolonialism**
- **Puppet Government**
- **Banana Republic**
- **Monopoly**
- **Enclave Economy**

Research Stations

After giving students a bit of background knowledge. Set up research stations and have students rotate around the room. You should have 3-4 groups.

Station 1 Images



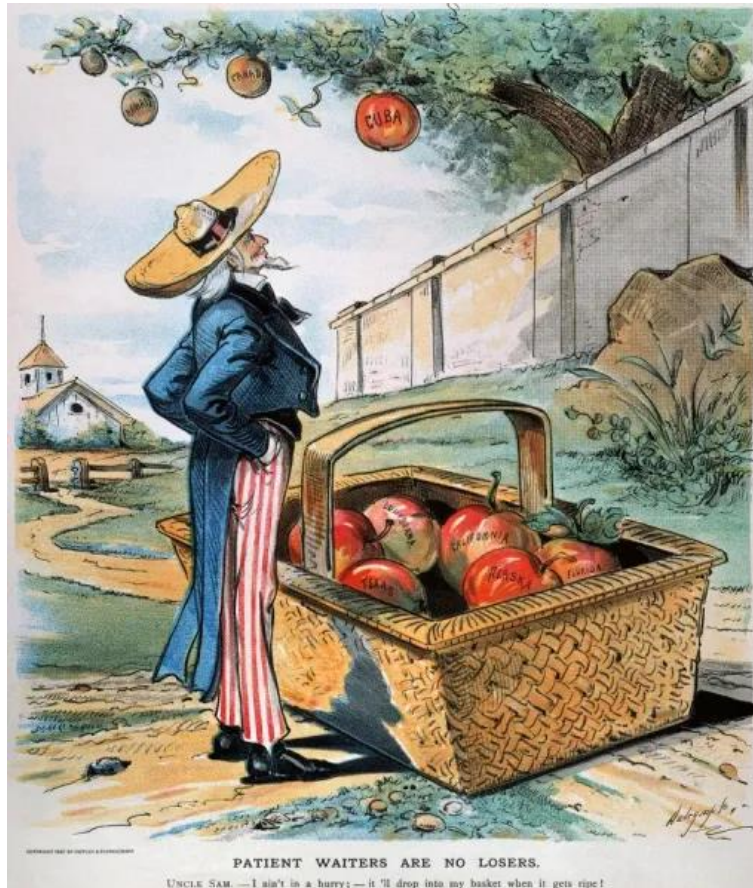
REGRESO DE LA CACERIA.

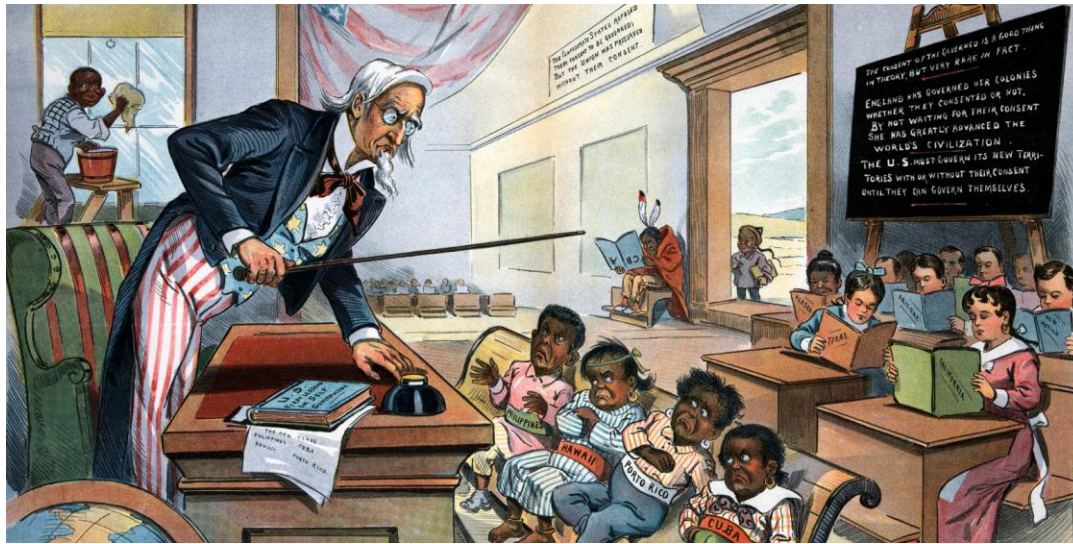


Cortés Vargas : ¡ Yo maté cien...!
Abadía. Eso no es nada, yo maté doscientos.



Station 2 Images





Station 3 (Documents should be printed out)

La Masacre en Las Bananeras: <https://diariolaeconomia.com/editoriales/item/4085-la-masacre-en-las-bananeras.html>

Photos we Don't Get to See: <https://dev.nacla.org/news/2018/12/18/photos-we-don%E2%80%99t-get-see-photo-essay>

Convention Between the United States and The Republic of Panama:
<https://www.bartleby.com/lit-hub/american-historical-documents/convention-between-the-united-states-and-the-republic-of-panama/>

This isn't a fixed list of cartoons or documents you need to use. You can always add or remove any in your own stations.

Research Station Student Guide

Station and Image #	What do you see? Describe and infer what certain symbols or people represent.	Authors POV. What do you think the intention of this cartoon or document is?

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