RESOURCE 13

Caricatures and Stereotypes

Teachers should note that the following imagery could offend some students. Sensitivity is recommended in their use in the classroom.

Uncle Sam’s Boarding House

An aggressive Irishman confronts Uncle Sam (symbol of the USA) in a boarding house filled with labourers and immigrants from several countries who are attempting to sleep.

Source: © Library of Congress
The ‘New Trans-Atlantic Hebrew Line,’ for the exclusive use of ‘the persecuted’ depicts not only stereotyped images of the Jewish passengers but also the boat itself and accompanying animal imagery.

Source: © Library of Congress
A depiction of Chinese immigrants as destructive grasshoppers from *The Wasp*, a late 19th century San Francisco satirical magazine. The text reads: 'Uncle Sam’s Farm in Danger. Seventy Millions of People Are Starving in the Northern Provinces of China. All Who Can Do So Are Making Preparations to Come to the United States. Look Out for the Grasshoppers, Uncle Sam!'

*Source: © Library of Congress*
Regarding the Italian Population

A harshly anti-Italian immigrant editorial cartoon in *The Mascot* newspaper, New Orleans, 1888. The top panels ridicule the Italian lifestyle and the bottom panels suggest ways to dispose of them.

*Source: Wikimedia Commons*

- What do you think the intended messages of these images were at the time?
- What impact might these images have had on the public who saw them?
- How might the distribution of such images have affected people who were migrants?