

Political Cartoons

8th Grade Georgia Studies

Key Terms

- Irony: the use of words to convey a meaning that is the opposite of its literal meaning.
- Satire: the use of irony, sarcasm, or ridicule.
- Propaganda: information, ideas, or rumors deliberately spread widely to help or harm a person, group, movement, institution, or nation.
- Exaggeration: the act of exaggerating or overstating.

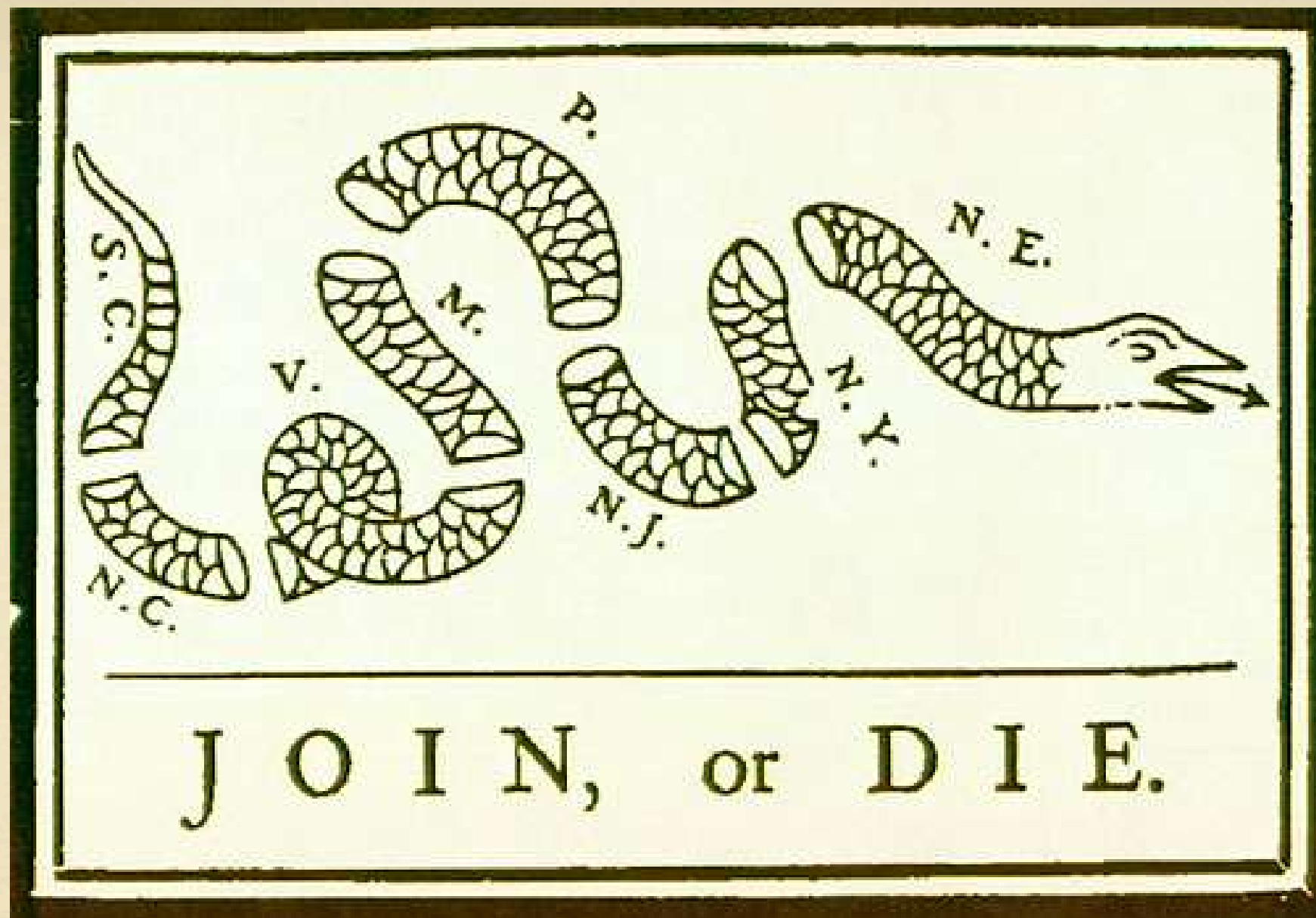
What is a Political Cartoon?

- Also known as editorial cartoons.
- Designed to send a message, make a point, influence opinion, or ridicule (make fun of).
- Can be interpreted in many ways.
- A cartoon is a way to quickly say what you think or feel.

Cartoons - Colonial Style



- Political cartoons first used in the times of the American Revolution.
- First cartoon published by Benjamin Franklin the Pennsylvania Gazette on May 9, 1754.
- Based on a superstition that a snake cut apart could actually rejoin itself.



-
- What words or letters are visible?
- What do we know about the author?
- Who do you think was the intended audience?
- What do you think is the overall message?
- Notice anything else?

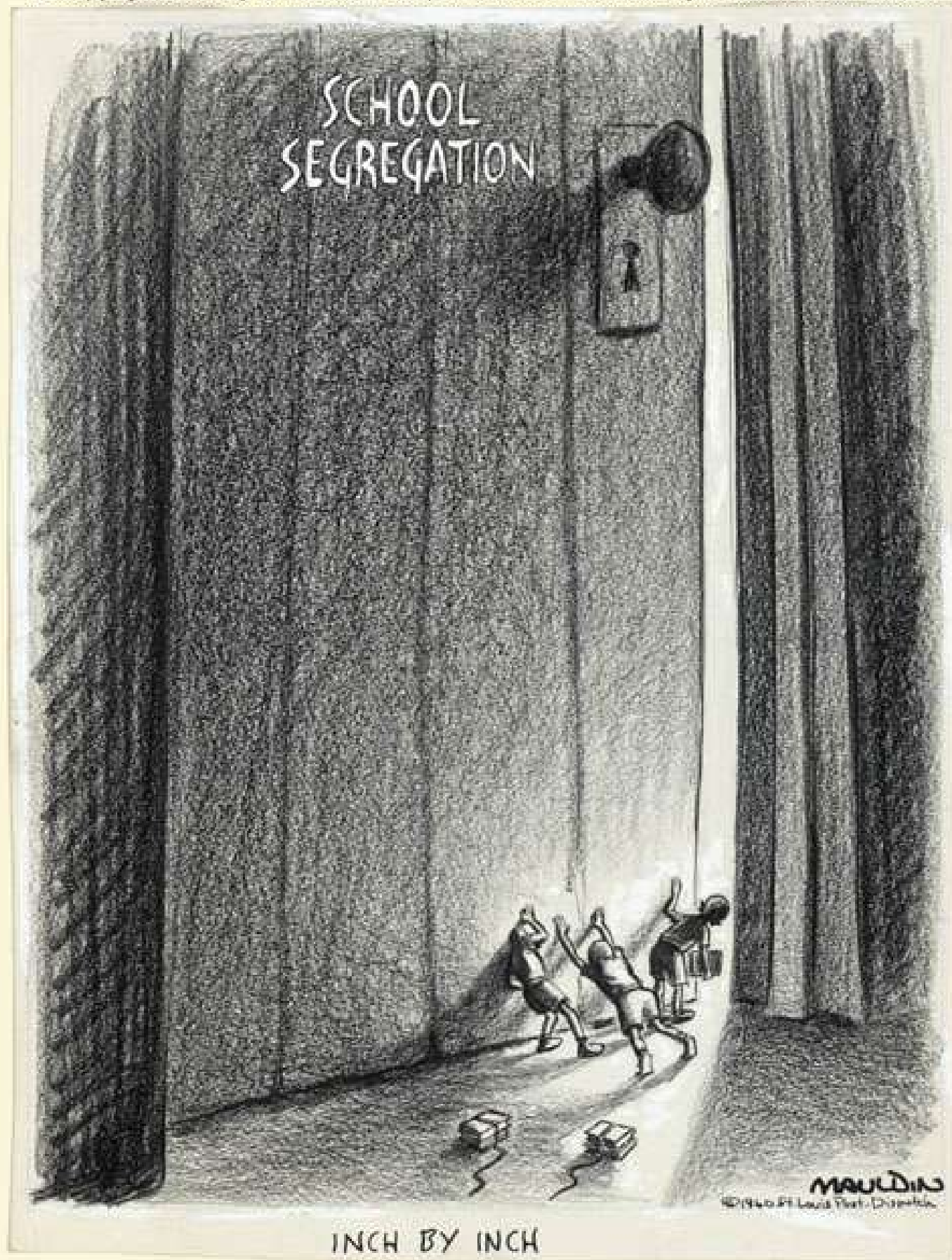
Cartoons as Propaganda

- Propaganda = information, ideas, or rumors deliberately spread widely to help or harm a person, group, movement, institution, or nation.
- Each political cartoon uses persuasion.
- Consider the source! The author has a message or point of view that he/she to convey.
- Use of analogies or metaphors to make a point.



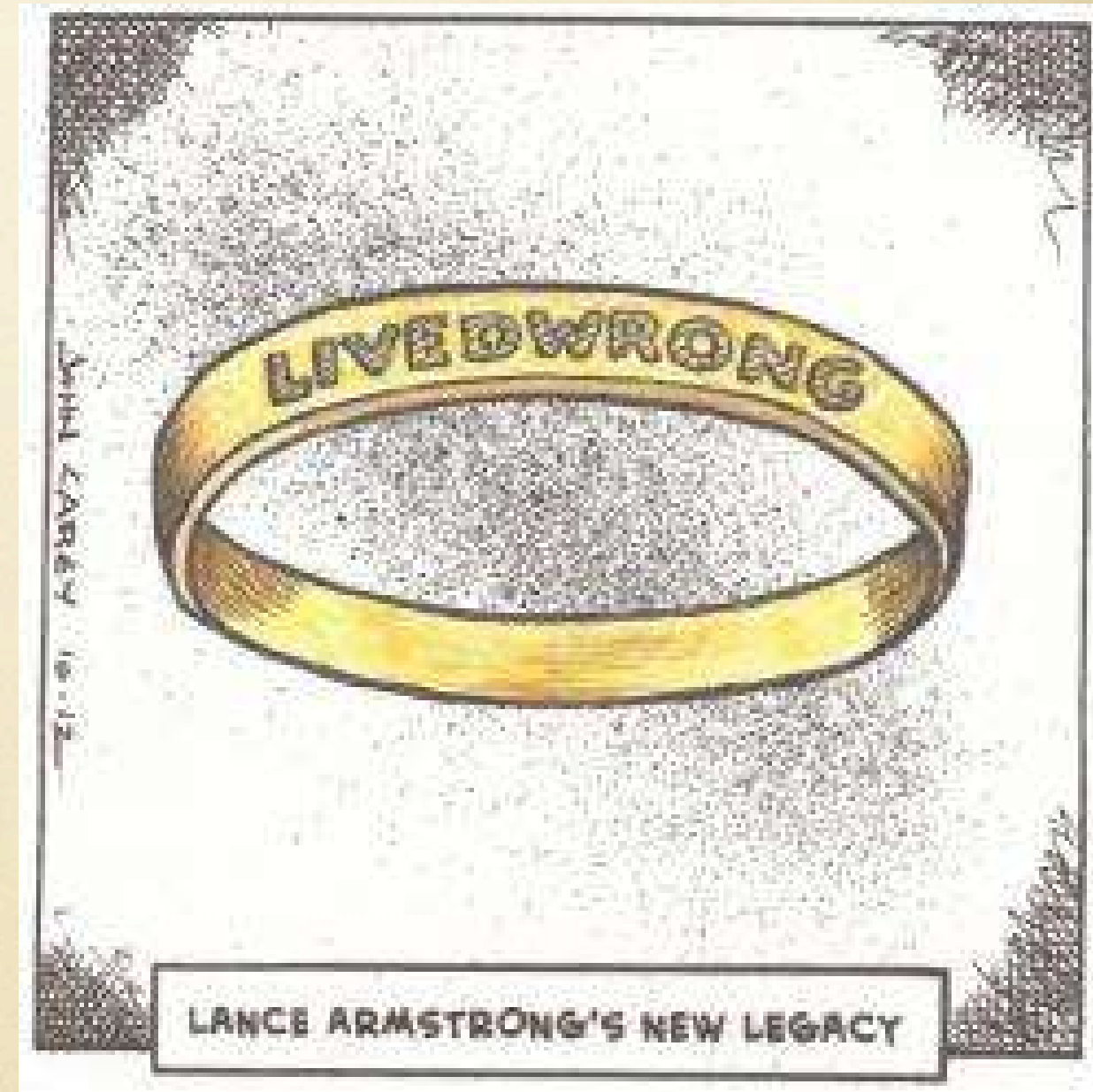
What You Need To Know

- **Each** political cartoon has a title & *sometimes* a caption that give a clue about the cartoon's meaning.
- **Each** has objects or people that participate in some action.
- **Each** uses symbols that artist assumes the audience will understand.
- **Some** have characters who make comments in the cartoon.
- **Some** characters or objects have labels to help the reader understand the message (*Think back to the election cartoon & their t-shirts!*)



Let's Practice

- What is the cartoon's caption or title?
- Identify people & objects in the cartoon.
- What words or phrases are used in the cartoon?
- Who is the cartoonist?



Questions to Ask

- What words are important in this cartoon? How do I know?
- What is the main point of this cartoon? How do I know?
- Who might agree with this image? Who might disagree?
- What can I infer about the author based on this cartoon?

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



FIRST DAY OF COLLEGE



© 2004 ADAM
CAGLE CARTOONS.COM
THE BUFFALO NEWS
ZIGGLES

Performance Assessment

- Must be a cartoon depicting an issue of Revolutionary times.
- Your cartoon must fill up an entire sheet of paper.
- Must be colored with colored pencils.
- Words on cartoon must be legible, neat, & easy to read.
- Drawing should be framed by construction paper.
- Must have a title or short saying worked into the drawing.
- Sign your cartoon just like an artist would!
- Your cartoon should use symbolism.
- On the back, explain the meaning AND symbolism.
- Explanation should be neatly written in BLACK or BLUE ink. If typed, use Courier New for an authentic newspaper feel.
- Rough Drafts must be checked and approved first!

Creating Your Own

- *Caricature* - A caricature is a drawing of someone or something that uses exaggeration to make a point.
- *Symbols* - There are two kinds: (1)symbols that make a point about something and (2) symbols that stand for something. A long nose -- like Pinocchio's -- is a good way to make a point about lying. In a cartoon about political parties, elephants and donkeys are often used to stand for Republicans and Democrats. But remember, a symbol only works if others easily understand it.
- *Labels* - For example, if you wanted to do a cartoon about high prices, you could show someone with empty pockets hanging out of their pants. A label on that person that says "American consumer" could help make things clearer for the viewer. Also, you can add a line or two at the bottom to explain the cartoon if it needs explaining. And like regular comics, you can have characters in political cartoon speak or think, using word bubbles.

