

Teacher Key: Expansion & Empire, 1898-1899

What each labeled part shows. These describe the image only. Each cartoon was made by someone with a point of view, noted under "Viewpoint." Let students build and defend their own readings.

Station 1: Well, I Hardly Know Which to Take First! (1898)

Context: Published in May 1898, early in the Spanish-American War. Uncle Sam sits at the table looking at the menu.

A: A menu ("Bill of Fare") showing Cuba drawn as "Cuba Steak."

B: "Philippine Floating Islands" and "Sandwich Islands" (Hawaii) on the menu.

C: A waiter with a towel labeled "McKinley."

Viewpoint: Lighthearted; readers then and now differ on whether it approves of expansion.

Source: Unidentified artist, Boston Globe, 1898. Library of Congress: www.loc.gov/item/96512090/. Public domain.

Station 2: Ten Thousand Miles from Tip to Tip (1898)

Context: Shows U.S. territory after the 1898 war with Spain and the annexation of Hawaii, stretching from the Philippines to Puerto Rico.

A: An eagle with wings spread across the whole map, marked "1898."

B: Pacific islands labeled Manila, Ladrones, Carolinas, Hawaii and Samoa.

C: A small eagle over a small map of the U.S. marked "1798."

Viewpoint: Celebrates expansion.

Source: Unidentified artist, Philadelphia Press, 1898. Cornell University Library (via Wikimedia Commons):

commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:10000_Miles_From_Tip_to_Tip_1899_Cornell_CUL_PJM_1133_01.jpg. Public domain.

Station 3: Uncle Sam's Barber Shop (1898)

Context: Drawn after the Spanish-American War. The catalog title says Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines are getting haircuts.

A: A wall sign: "Uncle Sam - Hair-cuts and close shaves while you wait."

B: Labeled jars on the shelf: "Caroline Islands," "Canary Islands," and "Old Spain."

C: A seated man with wild hair, waiting his turn. His sash reads "Porto Rico" (the period spelling of Puerto Rico).

Viewpoint: Artist unidentified; viewpoint is open for students to judge.

Source: Unidentified artist, Drawing, 1898. Library of Congress: www.loc.gov/item/2016678241/. Public domain.

Station 4: School Begins (1899)

Context: Published in January 1899 as the Senate debated the treaty to acquire the Philippines. Students labeled with U.S. states sit reading in the back.

A: A blackboard with text claiming that governments do not always need the consent of the governed.

B: Children on the front bench labeled Philippines, Hawaii, Porto Rico and Cuba, being taught by Uncle Sam.

C: A Native American child sitting apart, holding a book upside down.

Viewpoint: Scholars disagree whether Puck meant this to support or mock expansion; let students argue it.

Source: Louis Dalrymple, Puck, 1899. Library of Congress: www.loc.gov/item/2012647459/. Public domain.

Station 5: "The White Man's Burden" (Apologies to Rudyard Kipling) (1899)

Context: Published in April 1899, two months after Kipling's poem "The White Man's Burden." The people in the baskets are drawn as caricatures, typical of the period.

A: A statue labeled "Civilization" at the top of the mountain.

B: Uncle Sam carrying a basket of people up the slope, with Britain's John Bull ahead of him.

C: Rocks labeled "Superstition"; others say "Oppression," "Barbarism" and "Ignorance."

Viewpoint: Judge was a Republican magazine that supported expansion; anti-imperialists strongly rejected this view.

Source: Victor Gillam, Judge, 1899. Judge magazine (via Wikimedia Commons):

commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:%22The_White_Man%27s_Burden%22_Judge_1899.png. Public domain.

Station 6: The Dream of the Anti-Expansionist (1899)

Context: The catalog describes this as a dream in which U.S. forces offer their weapons and flag to Filipinos. It appeared during the Philippine-American War.

A: U.S. officers (including Admiral Dewey) holding out their swords toward the seated group.

B: An American flag lowered to the ground.

C: A group of Filipinos sitting under a thatched shelter.

Viewpoint: Mocks the anti-expansionist position.

Source: Udo J. Keppler, Puck, 1899. Library of Congress: www.loc.gov/item/2012647415/. Public domain.