

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT
Lesson Title - No Irish Need Apply
From David Chassanoff

Grade – 8

Length of class period – 53 minutes

Inquiry – By using the guiding worksheet, students will investigate how much of society viewed the Irish in the mid 1800's. Were they considered somewhat less than white?

Objectives - Students will analyze the language of the time period through classified ads and a newspaper article written by the Know-Nothing party. They will also examine two political cartoons that clearly make a statement about race.

Materials Please see attached documents, cartoons and powerpoint.

Activities - The teacher will begin the lesson, by going over **only** the first slide of the powerpoint (the rest of the slide show is for review after students have examined the material themselves). This will give them some background information of the Irish in the U.S. Next, the class will be broken up into groups of 3 or 4 and rotate through 4 stations. At each station students will be filling out the accompanying questions on the worksheet.

How will you assess what student learned during this lesson?

-Responses to Guiding Questions

-The information gathered will be assessed by an essay question on a pre-civil war test.

Connecticut Framework Performance Standards –

1.6 Describe patterns of human movement across time and place.

16. Analyze & draw conclusion on immigration's impact on the U.S. at different stages in its history.

2.2 Interpret information from a variety of primary and secondary sources.

Gr.8. 2. Compare information about the same event using a variety of primary and secondary sources.

Guiding Questions

Name _____

Station 1

1. The man in the “white” scale is supposed to be Irish. What is the message of this cartoon?
2. Thomas Nast, the cartoonist, drew for Harper’s Weekly. Based on this cartoon, what sort of people do you think read Harper’s Weekly?

Station 2

3. Why did the ‘Know-Nothings’ hate the Catholics so much? List at least four reasons.
4. According to the ‘Know-Nothings’ could the Irish ever be true Americans? Why or why not?

Station 3

5. What type of employers are not interested in Irish help?
6. In the editorial, how is the author trying to advocate for the Irish?
7. Looking at the dates of all the documents, what conclusions can we make about the attitudes towards the Irish?

Station 4

8. The angry woman in the cartoon is supposed to be Irish. Describe what she looks like and how she’s acting.

9. Based on this cartoon, what job do you think many Irish women had in the 1880s? What were some stereotypes about Irish women?

No Irish need apply

<http://yesteryearsnews.wordpress.com/2011/03/17/where-no-irish-need-apply/>

The Know-Nothing and American Crusader, July 29, 1854.

<http://www.hsp.org/sites/www.hsp.org/files/migrated/anticatholicpress.pdf>

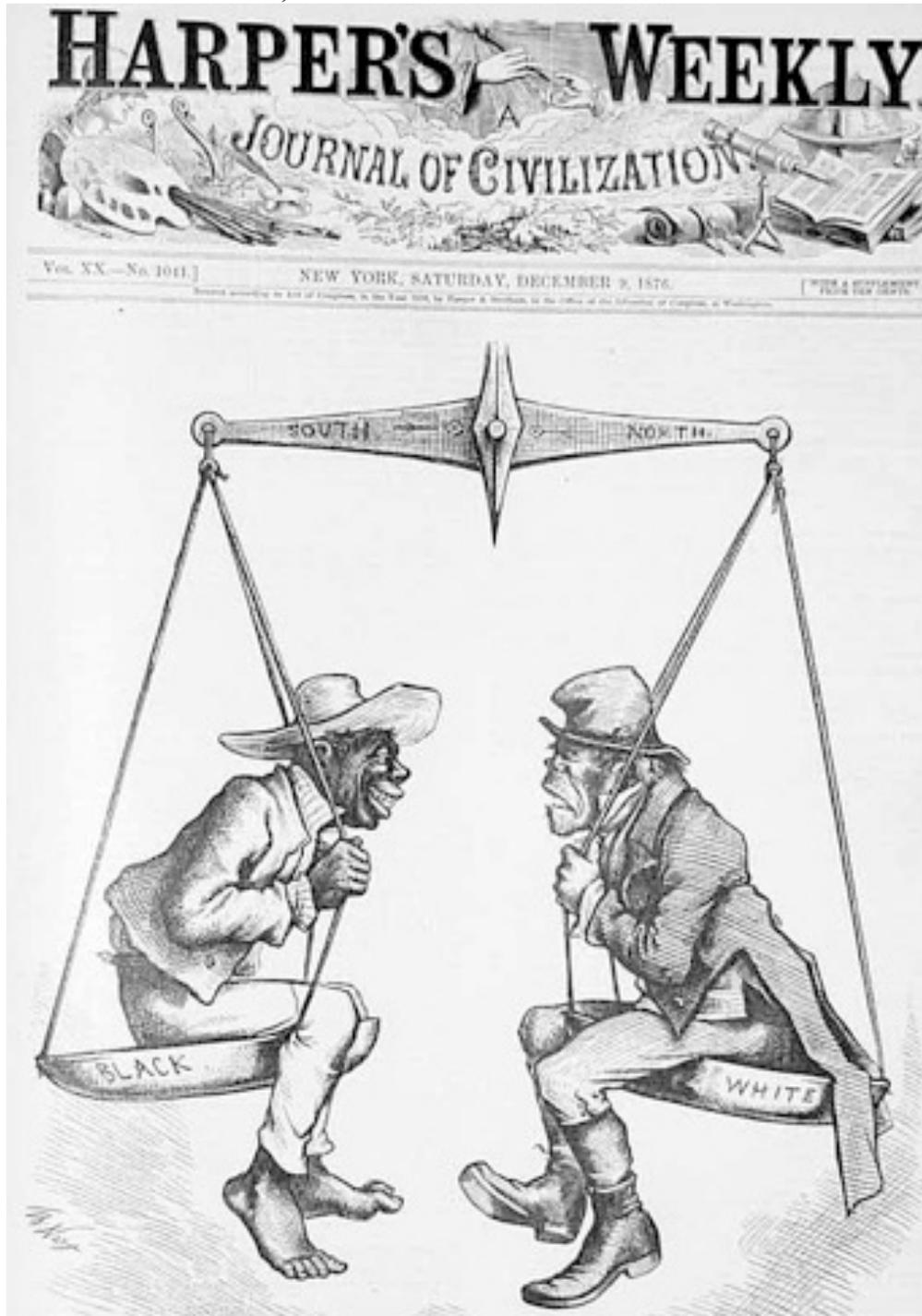
"Irish Declaration of Independence," *Puck*, May 9, 1883.

<http://www.hsp.org/sites/www.hsp.org/files/migrated/irishdeclaration.jpg>

Thomas Nast, Cartoon, *Harper's Weekly*, December 7, 1876.

http://cartoons.osu.edu/nast/ignorant_vote.htm

Thomas Nast Cartoon, 1876



Excerpt from a 'Know – Nothing' Newspaper, 1854

THINGS WHICH ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND ALL TRUE ROMAN CATHOLICS HATE

Providence, July 22, 1854

1. They HATE our Republic, and are trying to overthrow it.
2. They HATE our *Flag*, and they grossly insult it.
3. They HATE the liberty of the Press.
4. They HATE the liberty of speech.
5. They HATE our Public School system.
6. They HATE the Bible, and would blot it out of existence *if* they could!
7. They HATE Protestants, and are sworn to *exterminate* them from our country and the earth.
8. They HATE all rulers that do not swear allegiance to the Pope of Rome.
9. They HATE to be *ruled* by *Americans*, and say 'WE WILL NOT BE RULED BY THEM!'
10. They HATE to support their own paupers and they are left to be supported by the tax paying Americans.
11. They HATE, above all, the '*Know-Nothings*,' who are determined to rid this country from their cursed power.

—UNCLE SAM

WANTED—A GIRL OF NEAT AND INDUSTRIOUS habits and an amiable disposition to take the entire charge of two small children. **No Irish need apply.** Address, with real name and residence, H. M. D., Box No. 170 Times Office.

The New York Times - May 10, 1859

Notice to Contractors.—The whitewashing and paporing of Hackett & Keefe's Saloon will be given to the lowest bidder. Bids to be in sealed proposals and not to exceed \$13—the balance in whisky. **No Irish need apply.**

HACKETT & KEEFE.

The Daily Republican - (Illinois) - May 7, 1873

We saw a notice the other day, to wit: A good and reliable man wanted to clean Bridge Lamps. "No Irish need apply". Call on or address Police Headquarters, Port Washington, Ohio."

The Ohio Democrat - May 10, 1883

“No Irish Need Apply.”

Editors Morning Herald.

In running my eye over your list of local news items April 1st, my attention was particularly attracted by an advertisement for the respectable and responsible position of “maid of all work” with the qualifying (but not obsolete) phrase “no Irish need apply.” The advertiser did well to add this last phrase, lest all the Irish in the city might apply together, as the position was too good to miss it there would be a rush sure of the “wild Irish.”

I fear the advertisers have outlived their time, as Irish-phobia and Knownothingism are dead and buried so deep as to be past resurrection. I am told the same phrase, “no Irish need apply,” is posted on the doors and gates of the nether world, as well as on some of their facsimiles on terra firma. The occupants of the house referred to must be sleeping, or out of the country, for the last ten or eleven years, as during that time their fell of bigotry toward the Irish was crushed out and Irish have held positions of trust and danger from the time the first gun was fired on Fort Sumpter down to the present date. In conclusion my Irish friends are better off without such anglicised bigots for employers.

Yours, &c, **“IRISH”**

Titusville Morning Herald (Titusville, Pennsylvania) Apr 2, 1872

Newspaper Cartoon 1883

