

American History

Lesson 12: April 7th 2020

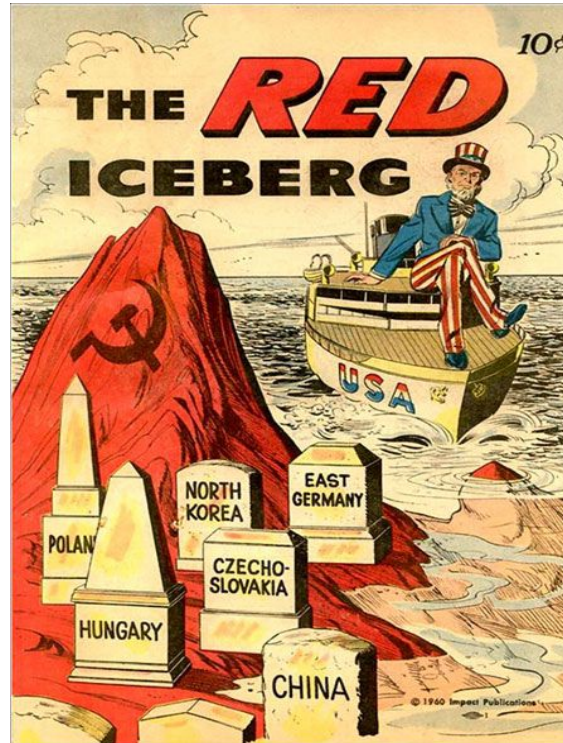
Learning Target: Students should be able to explain the rise and fall of Senator Joseph McCarthy following the rise of the new Communist regime in China and the United States entering the Korean War and how it changed public opinion in the United States.

Warm Up:

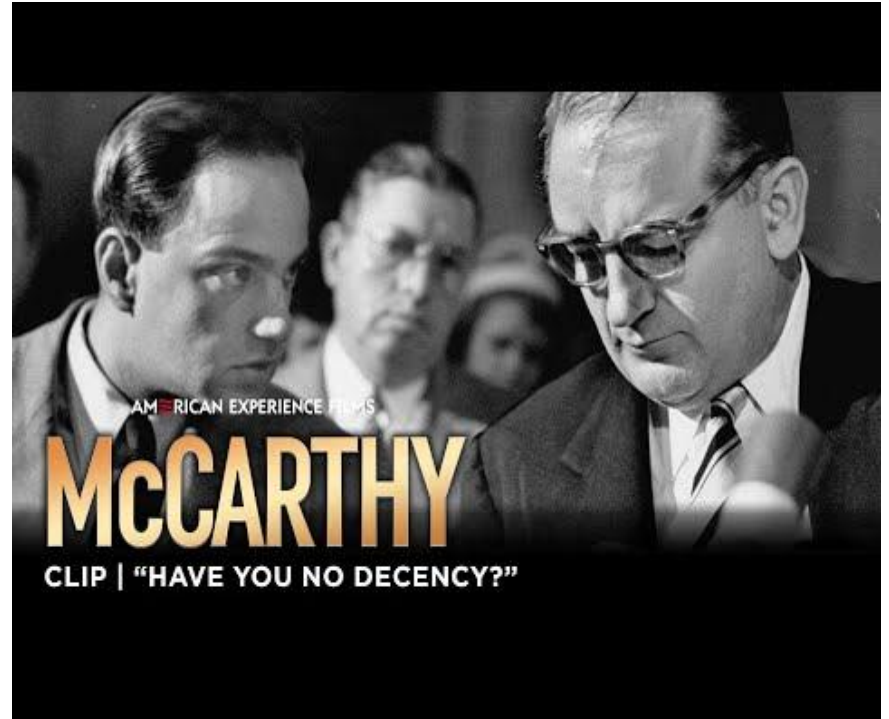
On a piece of paper students need to write down their answer to the following Warm Up question after looking at the three posters on the following slide.

How do these United States political posters instill fear into Americans about Communism?

Warm Up:



Lesson Activity: Watch the two short videos



Practice: On a piece of paper or typed write down the answers to the questions after watching both videos in their entirety.

Questions to Consider

1. How did the rise of Communism in China and the start of the Korean War help to instill fear in the minds of citizens of the United States?
2. Were the actions by Senator Joseph McCarthy an infringement on the Constitutional Rights of U.S. citizens or were his actions justified in an attempt to protect the U.S.?

Practice

Questions to Consider

1. How did the rise of Communism in China and the start of the Korean War help to instill fear in the minds of citizens of the United States?
2. Were the actions by Senator Joseph McCarthy an infringement on the Constitutional Rights of U.S. citizens or were his actions justified in an attempt to protect the U.S.?

People just started to jump to conclusions without researching what was going on and when you had Hollywood actors/actresses and prominent political leaders giving their answers it instilled fear in the eyes of many Americans all the way through the Cold War era which ended in 1989.

Yes, they were an infringement on people's Constitutional Rights because he was just calling out people in the government with no knowledge or evidence that they had any ties to Communism. He could never give a straight answer as to how many people were on his Communist list. This is a major contributing factor that led to his downfall.

Reflection

Use this lesson to think about how Joseph McCarthy shaped how many Americans felt about Communism when start getting into the Cold War era.