Using a primary source to introduce a topic

Cartoons are excellent resources for introducing topics. They can be found in textbooks and e-learning materials provided by publishers. They can usually be found via image searches online although this can be unreliable as many web sites (including many by teachers) use cartoons without full copyright permission and they are sometimes shut down. This is not a problem with cartoons from copyright holders such as the British Cartoon Archive (http://www.cartoons.ac.uk/).

In this task learners are given a copy of an Australian cartoon published in 1919 entitled The Melting Pot. It can be found in textbooks or from the British Cartoon Archive web site at http://www.cartoons.ac.uk/record/LSE0957.

In this resource the task for learners is to interpret a particular cartoon and explain three main issues:

1. According to the cartoonist what is America trying to achieve?

2. What are the other nations trying to add and is this helping or hindering?

3. Do you think the cartoonist is optimistic or pessimistic about the future?