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Grade level: 5

Primary source citation: “Join or Die” by Benjamin Franklin, Cartoon in the Pennsylvania Gazette, May 9, 1754,
<http://www.apstudent.com/ushistory/docs1751/joindie.htm>.

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the political cartoon located at the above link (or attached) while answering the questions below in order. The questions are designed to guide students into a deeper analysis of the source and sharpen associated cognitive skills.

Level 1: Description

1. What is on this political cartoon?
2. When was it created?
3. Who created this cartoon?

Level 2: Interpretation

1. What do you notice about the snake?
2. What does the date tell you about this time period? What was happening at this time?
3. Who did Benjamin Franklin want to see this political cartoon?

Level 3: Analysis

1. What do you think having the snake in sections means?
2. What was Benjamin Franklin meaning behind the title “Join, or Die”
3. How do think this affected the Colonists’ views of England? Explain.

