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Grade level: 9-12

Primary Source Citation:

Picasso, Pablo. <u>Guernica</u>. Mural for Spanish Pavilion of the 1937 World's Fair: Paris Exposition. Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid. Accessed at PBS's "Treasures of the World."
http://www.pbs.org/treasuresoftheworld/a_nav/guernica_nav/main_guerfrm.html.

Picasso, Pablo. <u>Weeping Woman</u>, 1937. Tate Gallery, London.
http://www.tate.org.uk/servlet/ViewWork?workid=11871.

Secondary Sources:

Warncke, Carsten-Peter. *Pablo Picasso: 1881-1973*. Taschen, 1997.

Snellgrove, L.E. *The Modern World Since 1870*. Longman Publishing Group; 2nd edition, 1981. chapter 18 "Rehearsal in Spain"

Unit: Forms of government – Anarchism, Communism, Fascism, Nazism

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the paintings at the above links or below while answering the questions below in order. These questions will prepare students to think critically when observing primary sources.

Level I: Description

1.   What country is being depicted in the painting?

2.   What is the style of painting?

3.   Any guesses who the artist might be? Why?

4.   What is being depicted in the painting?

Level II: Interpretation

1.   To whom is the artist addressing?

2.   What might the bull symbolize?

3.   Why did the artist only use black, white, and grey?

4.   Where do you think this large painting is exhibited?

5.   Can you think of any conditions that the artist stipulated about the museum displaying the work?

6.   What statement might the painting be making?

7.   Should artists reveal their political viewpoints in their work?

8.   Have you seen *Pan's Labyrinth*?

9.   Have you read or seen *For Whom the Bell Tolls*?

10.   Where did the artist exhibit this work for the first time?

Level III: Analysis

1.   Are there any weapons of war in the painting?

2.   How does the viewer understand the violence of war?

3.   Find examples of intense suffering.

(Examine small portions of the painting that show the stages the artist progressed through before he consolidated the images – see attached)

4.   Is there any reference in the painting to political events?

5.   What words come to mind when you first look at the painting?

6.   Identify symbols (the sun, the light, the horse, the bull, the mothers, and the smashed statue).

7.   What does the statue represent and what fragments indicated the statue's profession?

8.   Could this painting be allegorical? Define allegorical.

9.   Why is the pupil in the eye a light bulb?

10.   Why is the angular lines and cubist style effective?

11.   What does the oil lamp represent?

12.   When did this painting return to Spain?

(Show Weeping Woman for additional discussion.)

Guernica

Weeping Woman