Dana Altobelli
Teaching American History
Mount Wachusett Campus

Title: Republican Motherhood v Evolving Role in Society WebQuest

Link with the Massachusetts Frameworks. This lesson addresses the following standards:

- **USI 28**: Explain the emergence and impact of the textile industry in New England and industrial growth throughout antebellum America.
- **USI.31**: Describe the formation of the abolitionist movement, the roles of various abolitionists, and the response of southerners to abolitionists.
- **USI.33**: Analyze the goals and effect of the antebellum women’s suffrage movement.

Resources: The following web sites are useful for information concerning women:

  - Organization of American Historians
  - American Women’s History: A Research Guide
    [http://www.mtsu.edu/~kmiddlet/history/women.html](http://www.mtsu.edu/~kmiddlet/history/women.html)
  - American Women: A Gateway to Library of Congress Resources for the Study of Women’s History and Culture
    [http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/)
  - Women’s History in America Presented by Women's International Center. [http://www.wic.org/misc/history.htm](http://www.wic.org/misc/history.htm)

Objectives:

Through this lesson plan, students will be able to:

1. Define ‘Republican Motherhood’ and identify its role during Colonial America;
2. Identify the role and status of women during Colonial America;
3. Compare the status and role of women with their changing status and role during the 1840s and 1850s;
4. Evaluate the role of women in antebellum America

Steps to the Activity:
1. Using the following websites, students will research Republican Motherhood: Organization of American Historians
   http://www.oah.org/pubs/magazine/earlyrepublic/cohen.html

   American Women’s History: A Research Guide
   http://www.mtsu.edu/~kmiddlet/history/women.html

   American Women: A Gateway to Library of Congress Resources for the Study of Women’s History and Culture
   http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/


2. Students need to gather enough information to draw a political cartoon of the ideal represented by Republican Motherhood. Students need to produce a one page essay explaining how Republican Motherhood lifted and confined the role and opportunities of women. Provide students with a sample of a political cartoon.

   ![Political Cartoon](https://example.com/political-cartoon)

   Explain the meaning of the context of the cartoon: Franklin’s attempt to encourage colonial unity during the French and Indian Wars, later reused during the Revolution.

3. Taking the ideal that they created of Republican Motherhood, students then need research the changing role of women in a changing America of the 1840s and 1850s. Using the following sites, students research the role of women in industry, abolition and suffrage:

Abolitionism  1830-50.  
http://www.iath.virginia.edu/utc/abolitn/abhp.html

Using the information gathered, students are to create four more political cartoons.  1) Women and Suffrage, 2) Women and Abolition, 3) Women in the Factories, 4) Portfolio of Notable Women with Explanations,

4. Students pass in/present their portfolio of cartoons. Class discussion on the changing role and importance of women over the years. Role of women in social reform and economic reality.

5. Questions for assessment:

   a) Given your understanding of Colonial America, how accurate was the idealized view of women was as represented in Republican Motherhood?

   b) Why do you think Republican Motherhood developed?

   c) How did women influence the social and political times of the 1840-50s?

   d) Is the ideal of Republican Motherhood damaged by the realities of later decades? Why/not?

Sample Cartoon from Colonial America
# Political Cartoon Rubric

**Teacher name:** Mr. Altobelli

**Student Name** ________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>Cartoon 20</th>
<th>Cartoon clearly demonstrates a point of view related to the article</th>
<th>Cartoon demonstrates an ambiguous point of view related to the article</th>
<th>Point of view is unclear</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supporting</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Supporting paragraph clearly relates the cartoon to the article. Cartoon is explained well.</td>
<td>Paragraph is vague or describes the cartoon but does not relate the cartoon to the article.</td>
<td>Paragraphs is missing or has no relation to the assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neatness</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Very neat, easy to understand</td>
<td>Cartoon is understandable, but not very neat.</td>
<td>Cartoon is very messy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>All text is very clear</td>
<td>Text is readable but not very clear..</td>
<td>Text can only be read with great difficulty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>