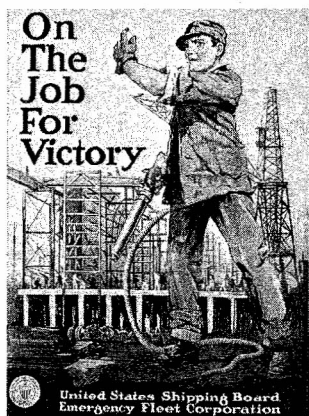


World War I

Skills for Life**Recognize Propaganda**

Propaganda comprises material used to shape public opinion for or against something, such as an idea, political party, or government. Propaganda can be spread by all forms of media, from public statements to posters to radio addresses to television commercials. Studying propaganda from different historical periods gives you insight into the opinions and motivations surrounding a particular event or time. To understand propaganda, you should identify an item's subject matter and determine the point of view or purpose of the person or organization that produced it. Question the propaganda: Does it use exaggeration such as overly strong words? Does it use symbols or names to cast something in a negative way? Does it include only selected facts about the subject? Once you have evaluated the propaganda's source, purpose, and form, you can draw conclusions about its historical significance.

Directions: Study the images produced during World War I below. Then answer the questions that follow.



Courtesy of the Library of Congress



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1. Who produced each of the above posters?

2. What is the message of the first poster? What is the message of the second poster?

3. What propaganda tools do these posters use?

4. Which of the posters do you think was more effective in terms of its purpose? Explain your answer.

