

Formative Assessment: Evaluating Evidence



Thinking historically means identifying the evidence related to a claim, assessing its validity, and corroborating it by comparing multiple sources' interpretations of events, developments, or processes.

Directions: Read the following secondary source and then answer the questions on evaluating evidence that follow. The multiple choice questions for this formative assessment are Weighted Multiple Choice (WMC) questions. This means that there is only one *incorrect* answer, but the other 3 choices are weighted. The *best* answer is 3 points, the *second-best* answer is 2 points, and the *third-best* answer is 1 point. The *incorrect* answer is 0 points.

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Source: Right: Rudyard Kipling, "White Man's Burden" (1899), *Rudyard Kipling's Verse*, 1920. [Library of Congress](#). Left: John S. Pughe, "Greedy Johnnie," *Puck*, February 19, 1896. [Library of Congress](#).

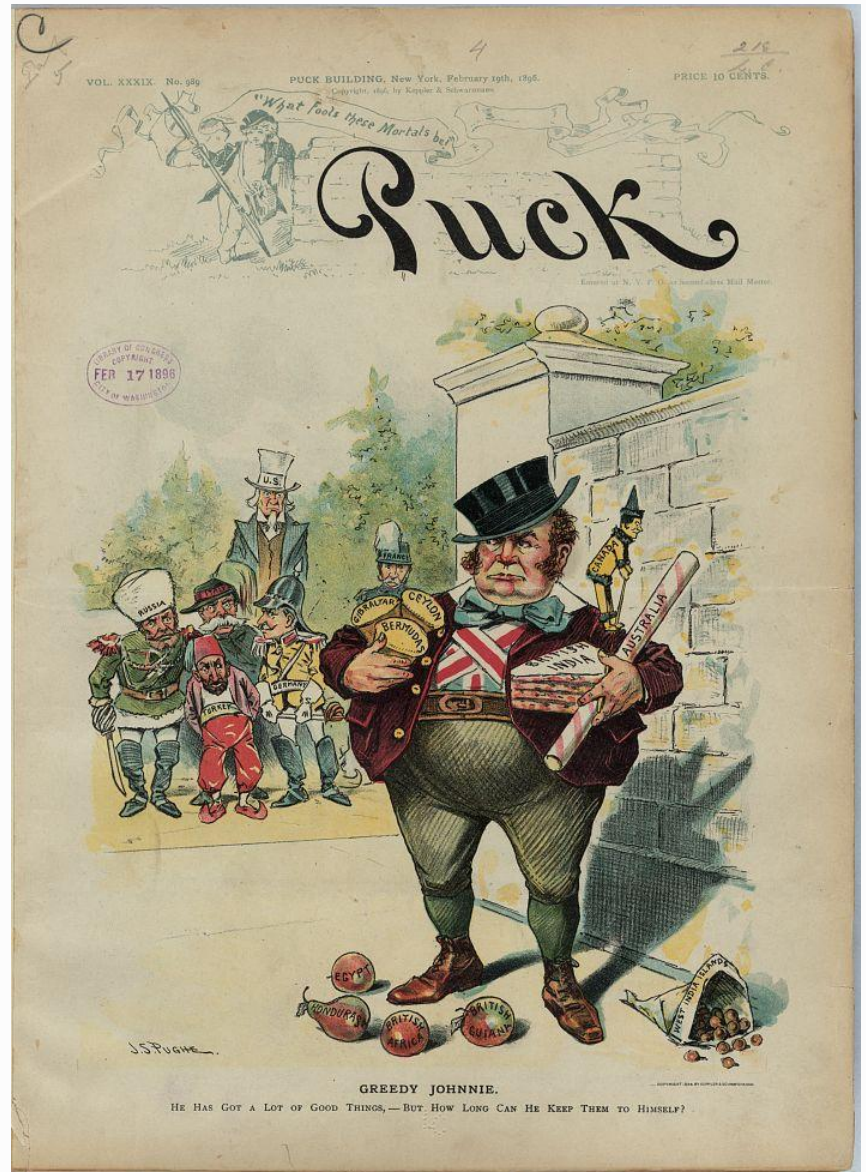
Note: Born in India and having visited South Africa in 1898, Rudyard Kipling was a famous British author and poet who praised the British Empire.

Take up the White Man's burden—
Send forth the best ye breed—
Go send your sons to exile
To serve your captives' need
To wait in heavy harness
On fluttered folk and wild—
Your new-caught, sullen peoples,
Half devil and half child
Take up the White Man's burden...

THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN

1899

TAKE up the White Man's burden—
Send forth the best ye breed—
Go bind your sons to exile
To serve your captives' need;
To wait in heavy harness,
On fluttered folk and wild—
Your new-caught, sullen peoples,
Half-devil and half-child.



"GREEDY JOHNNIE
HE HAS GOT A LOT OF GOOD THINGS—
BUT HOW LONG CAN HE KEEP THEM TO
HIMSELF?"



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1. Select the piece of evidence from the above sources that *best* supports the claim: **British imperialism was driven by a belief that European powers had both the right and the responsibility to control other parts of the world.**
 - A. Kipling describes colonized peoples as "new-caught, sullen" captives, and the *Puck* cartoon shows Britain holding its colonial territories tightly, together portraying colonized peoples as possessions to be held.
 - B. Kipling describes colonized peoples as "half devil and half child," and the *Puck* cartoon depicts Britain holding territories labeled with economic resources.
 - C. Kipling frames colonization as the "white man's burden" and the *Puck* cartoon depicts other nations eyeing Britain's colonial possessions, suggesting they too desire their own imperial responsibilities and rights.
 - D. Kipling celebrates British ambition for global domination, while the *Puck* cartoon portrays Britain as a responsible steward of its colonial territories.

2. Justify your choice in the space below.



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1. Select the piece of evidence from the above sources that *best* supports the claim: **British imperialism was driven by a belief that European powers had both the right and the responsibility to control other parts of the world.**
 - A. Kipling describes colonized peoples as "new-caught, sullen" captives, and the *Puck* cartoon shows Britain holding its colonial territories tightly, together portraying colonized peoples as possessions to be held. **(2 points)**
 - B. Kipling describes colonized peoples as "half devil and half child," and the *Puck* cartoon depicts Britain holding territories labeled with economic resources. **(1 point)**
 - C. Kipling frames colonization as the "white man's burden" and the *Puck* cartoon depicts other nations eyeing Britain's colonial possessions, suggesting they too desire their own imperial responsibilities and rights. **(3 points)**
 - D. Kipling celebrates British ambition for global domination, while the *Puck* cartoon portrays Britain as a responsible steward of its colonial territories. **(0 points)**

2. Justify your choice in the space below.

Choice C, worth 3 points, is the best piece of evidence to support the claim that British imperialism was driven by a belief that European powers had both the right and the responsibility to control other parts of the world. Kipling's framing of colonization as a "burden" establishes imperialism as a perceived European responsibility, while the *Puck* cartoon's depiction of other nations eyeing Britain's territories reflects an assumed right to colonial possession, addressing both dimensions of the claim. Choice A also supports the claim, as Kipling's description of colonized peoples as "new-caught" captives and the cartoon's depiction of Britain clutching its territories portray colonized peoples as possessions, but it only addresses one dimension of the claim rather than both right and responsibility, worth 2 points. Choice B is worth 1 point because it references both sources but draws no conclusion connecting them, making it a weaker and incomplete piece of evidence. Choice D is worth 0 points because it misreads both sources. Kipling frames colonization as a burden rather than a celebration, and the *Puck* cartoon depicts greed rather than responsible stewardship.



1. Weighted Multiple Choice

3 points (Choice C)	2 points (Choice A)	1 point (Choice B)	0 points (Choice D)
			Subtotal: _____ / 3

2. Short Answer: Justify Your Answer

3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points
Student thoroughly justifies their choice of the <i>best</i> piece of evidence—which is worth three points as shown on the teacher key—that supports the claim.	Student thoroughly justifies their choice of either the 1 or 2 point option from the WMC question. OR Student's justification of the 3 point option needs deeper analysis.	Student's justification of their choice (either the 1 or 2 point option) lacks deep analysis.	Student either makes no attempt to justify their choice OR try to justify the 0 point option.
			Subtotal: _____ / 3

Total: _____ / 6

