

Visual Analysis Worksheet: Answer Key

Image 1

Date of the Source (if available): 1934 Creator / Author: *unknown*

Title: *“Tokyo 1934”*

Type of Source: Painting Photograph Cartoon Poster Other

- Examine the image carefully. What do you first notice about this image?
Answers will vary; students may mention that this is not a staged photograph—the people are captured as they were in that moment.
- Imagine the image is divided into quadrants (four pieces). Now examine each piece of the image carefully, looking at the details. List the details that you see in the image.

People: <i>Men, women, and children</i>	Actions: <i>Shopping? Festival? The people are walking along a busy street.</i>	Questions? <i>Why are the women wearing kimono while the men and children are in Western dress?</i>
Objects: <i>Electric lanterns, lights, shops, temple in background</i>	Symbols:	

- What do you think the message of the image is? (Support with details from image.)
There doesn't seem to be an intended “message” here—rather, this photograph captures the daily activities on a Japanese street. It is interesting though that the women are all wearing traditional clothing (kimono) while their children are dressed in Western attire. Why? Are the women rooted in Japanese tradition but okay with encouraging their children to dress for a modern world? Does the clothing choice symbolize the “Good Wife, Wise Mother” mantra of the modern era? The men—head of society—are also embracing Western dress and attitudes, which might further symbolize Japan’s rapid modernization and Westernization.
- Who was the intended audience? What do you see that tells you who the audience was?
This image does not seem to have an intended audience—just a candid shot of one day in time.
- How does this source reflect the broader aspects of political, economic, social, cultural, or intellectual developments of the historical era?
The “Good Wife, Wise Mother” campaign emerged during the late Meiji. The goal was to promote nationalistic ideals that would benefit not only the family but also the state. This source really does illustrate, through clothing, Japan was embracing new styles, new attitudes, and new traditions.

Images 2 and 3

Date of the Source (if available): *9/1931 and 10/1931* Creator / Author: *NAPP*

Title: *Magazine covers: Nippona Artista Proleta Federacio*

Type of Source: Painting Photograph Cartoon Poster Other

- Examine the image carefully. What do you first notice about this image?
Answers will vary; students may mention any of the details they put in the table below.
- Imagine the image is divided into quadrants (four pieces). Now examine each piece of the image carefully, looking at the details. List the details that you see in the image.

<p>People: <i>One man is featured in the center of the image. The man's shadow is visible on the Sept. cover. On the Oct. cover, the man is overshadowed by a crane.</i></p>	<p>Actions: <i>The man appears to be protesting, running, and yelling in the Sept. issue. The man in the Oct. issue has his head bent down; he is sitting and appears to be writing or reading.</i></p>	<p>Questions? <i>What type of magazines were these? Who read them? What is being promoted/advocated in each image? Were Japanese workers overworked and taken advantage of?</i></p>
<p>Objects: <i>Sept. image = fire, hammer, industrial buildings.</i> <i>Oct. image = heavy machinery, crane, industrial buildings</i></p>	<p>Symbols: <i>Sept = fire seems to be important. The fire is at the feet of the man's shadow implying that he is uncomfortable and under stress.</i> <i>Oct = the crane seems to be crushing down on the man</i></p>	

- What do you think the message of the image is? (Support with details from image.)
Both images seem to be portraying the plight of the Japanese worker. The September image is showing the workers' dissatisfaction with current working condition, while the October cover seems to be showing the worker weighed down by his work. Both seem discontent but are expressing their displeasure differently.
- Who was the intended audience? What do you see that tells you who the audience was?
Proleta = Proletarian. So, this magazine must be directed toward the worker.
- How does this source reflect the broader aspects of political, economic, social, cultural, or intellectual developments of the historical era?
The proletarian movement in Japan (1920s-1930s) worked to confront issues facing the working class. Literature and publications during this decade addressed gender, imperialism, labor issues, modernization, capitalism, competition, and class issues.

Image 4

Date of the Source (if available): 1935

Creator / Author: *unknown*Title: *Tokyo Construction Fair*Type of Source: Painting Photograph Cartoon Poster Other

1. Examine the image carefully. What do you first notice about this image? *Answers will vary; they may note the contrast between the huge construction equipment and the precariously balanced person.*
2. Imagine the image is divided into quadrants (four pieces). Now examine each piece of the image carefully, looking at the details. List the details that you see in the image.

People: <i>One person—working on a construction site.</i>	Actions: <i>The crane appears to be picking up building supplies on which the person is balancing.</i>	Questions? <i>Why are there not more people in this picture??</i>
Objects: <i>Construction site with equipment, Japanese writing, person</i>	Symbols: <i>The focus appears to be on the construction site/equipment. The human is insignificant, a spectator.</i>	

3. What do you think the message of the image is? (Support with details from image.) *The dominant object in this poster is the building site. Industry and work and progress seem to be what is most important—the scale of the building site and equipment confirms its dominance. The person is small in comparison and precariously balanced. In modern Japan the workers are important but industrial enterprise is more important.*
4. Who was the intended audience? What do you see that tells you who the audience was? *This poster was advertising a construction fair, so the specific audience may have been people in the construction business, but the poster was likely seen by the general population as well.*
5. How does this source reflect the broader aspects of political, economic, social, cultural, or intellectual developments of the historical era? *Expansion and industrial growth during the Showa was comparable to many European countries. Textile production included silk, wool, fabric, etc. All this growth was made possible by Japanese workers who worked long hours for little pay—quite similar to American industrialization. Large business and the nation profited greatly on the backs of the worker.*

Images 5 and 6

Date of the Source (if available): 1935

Creator / Author: *unknown/S. Kinoshita*

Title: *Woman Curling Hair and Ainu Woman Carrying Wood*

Type of Source: Painting Photograph Cartoon Poster Other

6. Examine the image carefully. What do you first notice about this image?
Answers will vary; they may note the contrast between the modern-looking woman using a complicated tool to wave her hair and the traditionally dressed barefoot woman.
7. Imagine the image is divided into quadrants (four pieces). Now examine each piece of the image carefully, looking at the details. List the details that you see in the image.

People: <i>Two very different are depicted in the two pictures</i>	Actions: <i>One woman is fixing her hair while the other carries a bundle of wood on her back.</i>	Questions? <i>Who are the Ainu? Where do they live? Are the houses in the background made of wood? Is this a "typical" Ainu village? Why was a postcard made of the Ainu? Where does the woman doing her hair live? Why was a new hairstyle seen as liberating?</i>
Objects: <i>Image 5: styling tool, Western-style clothing. Image 6: wooden structures, wooden fence, bundle of wood, traditional clothing, vegetation</i>	Symbols: <i>The styling tool and hairstyle of the woman in Image 5 symbolize the modern woman. The traditional clothing and bare feet of the woman in Image 6 symbolize traditional customs.</i>	

8. What do you think the message of the image is? (Support with details from image.)
Taken together, the two images suggest that modernization and traditional lifestyles both existed in the 1920s.
9. Who was the intended audience? What do you see that tells you who the audience was?
Postcards had a very broad audience both within and outside of Japan. The postcard was likely taken to document traditional lifestyles, an image that may have appealed to some people within and outside Japan. Since we don't know if the picture of the "modern" woman was circulated widely, it's difficult to say whether it was intended for an external audience.
10. How does this source reflect the broader aspects of political, economic, social, cultural, or intellectual developments of the historical era?
The two photographs, taken together, show social changes, particularly for women.