



# Smithsonian's History Explorer Podcast

## Teacher Guide



## Uncle Sam: the Man and the Meme

*with collections manager Natalie Elder*

**Podcast Link:** <https://americanhistory.si.edu/sites/default/files/podcasts/Uncle%20Sam%20Podcast.mp3>

### Pre-Listening Questions

- Who is Uncle Sam? Is he a real person?
- What does Uncle Sam represent?
- Where have you seen Uncle Sam? In what context and for what purpose?

### Discussion Questions

- Why and by whom has Uncle Sam, the allegorical figure, been used since his inception?
- How has the use of Uncle Sam changed over time?
- What impact has Uncle Sam as a figure had on American history?

### Related Resources—for continued instruction or resources for your students' research

National Museum of American History:

- The Price of Freedom: Americans at War  
<http://historyexplorer.si.edu/resource/?key=727>
- The Star Spangled Banner: The Flag that Inspired the National Anthem  
<http://historyexplorer.si.edu/resource/?key=1299&lp=resource&resource=727>

Other:

- John Bull and Uncle Sam  
<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/british/britobje.html>
- The United States Senate Art and History Page  
[http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/art/g\\_three\\_sections\\_with\\_teasers/graphicarts.htm](http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/art/g_three_sections_with_teasers/graphicarts.htm)

### Related Standards for U.S. History (National Center for History in the Schools)

- Era 8: The Great Depression and World War II (1929-1945)
  - Standard 3: The causes and course of World War II, the character of the war at home and abroad, and its reshaping of the U.S. role in world affairs

**Email your question, comments, and discoveries to [thinkfinit@si.edu](mailto:thinkfinit@si.edu)**

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Name:

Date:

Period:

Topic:

*Pre-Listening vocabulary—define these words:*

Allegorical figure:

Personification:

Meme:

*Pre-Listening (leave space after your questions to answer them as you listen):*

What basic understanding questions do you have about this topic?

What thought questions do you have about this topic?

*Post-Listening:*

What new thought questions do you have?

Of all your thought questions, which few are especially important to the topic? Why?

Which is the most important thought question? Why?

What steps would you take to find the answer to the most important thought question?

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