

# WHITE MANS BURDEN

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Per \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is happening in this picture?

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT:** In 1899, British writer Rudyard Kipling was inspired by events during the Spanish- American War and composed a poem titled "The White Man's Burden." The poem became a focal point for the debate about imperialism and prompted both positive and negative responses. Kipling is also the author of the popular "Jungle Book," which is better known for the Disney adaptation. Analyze each of the documents & images with historical lenses.

DOC

A

## WHITE MAN'S BURDEN (Poem excerpt)

Take up the white man's burden –  
Send forth the best ye breed –  
Go, bind your sons to exile  
To serve your captives' need...  
Take up the white man's burden –  
The savage wars of peace –  
Fill full the mouth of famine,  
And bid the sickness cease...  
Take up the white man's burden!  
Have done with childish days –  
The lightly proffered laurel,  
The easy ungrudged praise:  
Comes now, to search your manhood  
Through all the thankless years,  
Cold, edged with dear-bought wisdom



1. Describe what you think Kipling means by "the white man's burden."

2. List 2 or 3 words or phrases that Kipling uses to describe Indigenous peoples.



4. How could this song be interpreted as support for White Man's Burden?



DOC

B

## JUNGLE BOOK (excerpt 1894)

"Listen, man-cub," said the Bear, and his voice rumbled like thunder on a hot night. **"I have taught thee all the Law of the Jungle for all the peoples of the jungle—except the Monkey-Folk who live in the trees. They have no law. They are outcasts. They have no speech of their own, but use the stolen words which they overhear when they listen, and peep, and wait up above in the branches. Their way is not our way. They are without leaders... We do not drink where the monkeys drink; we do not go where the monkeys go; we do not hunt where they hunt; we do not die where they die."**

3. How could this excerpt be viewed as an analogy for Social Darwinism?

DOC

D

At the top of the rock is CIVILIZATION

IGONORANCE



OPPRESSION

BARBARISM



"The White Man's Burden." Judge, 1899

7. What stance is this image portraying regarding White Man's Burden?

8. Do you think Kipling would support this image? Explain

DOC

C

## SONG "I WANNA BE LIKE YOU" THE JUNGLE BOOK-DISNEY 1967

Now I'm the king of the swingers  
Oh, the jungle VIP  
I've reached the top and had to stop  
And that's what botherin' me  
I wanna be a man, man-cub  
And stroll right into town  
And be just like the other men  
I'm tired of monkeyin' around!

Oh, oobee doo  
I wanna be like you  
I wanna walk like you  
Talk like you, too  
You'll see it's true  
An ape like me  
Can learn to be human too

5. In the Disney adaptation of the Jungle Book many of the animals in the Jungle speak with a British accent not included are the Monkeys. How could this be viewed as an example of Anglo-Saxonism? Do you think this was intentional on Disney's part?