



## ALBUM [CULTURAL CLASSROOM COMPARISON](#)

### Album Description

This album compares classrooms and schools from the USSR and the United States during the 1940s to show the similarities and differences of education. These images provide students with a perspective on the daily life of students in the Soviet Union during World War II.

The resources in this album are meant as a compare and contrast introduction activity. Students in the United States are very familiar with the design of classrooms and schools, as they spend the majority of their adolescences in these spaces. Can students identify similarities and differences of schools from separate countries?

Guiding Questions: How similar and different are classrooms and schools across the world? Are students in schools around the globe learning the same lessons? What do think the students at these schools were learning?

This activity is for 7th Grade Middle School students in US History II 1865 to Present Day. The goal for this activity is for students to make observations and to understand differing perspectives.

[6 - 8](#)

[Social Studies/History](#)

[Classrooms](#)

[USSR](#)

[US](#)

[1940s](#)



### Teaching Notes:



[Lana Lewter](#)

There are references to the Cold War at loc.gov but because of the dates many are going to be copyright restricted. I suggest you search in the National Archives instead. Here is an Advanced Google Site search you could start with to find some photographs of Soviet Union classroom scenes during the Cold War Era.

Soviet Union Classroom site:<https://www.archives.gov/> There are quite a few Cold War classroom images to pick from that you could use for the Compare and Contrast inquiry activity you have been thinking about using.

-- Ann



### Teaching Notes:

The Library of Congress has a really helpful research guide to finding Cold War images in the Prints & Photographs collections: <https://guides.loc.gov/cold-war-images/selected-collections>


The guide lists rights-free collections, followed by collections that might require permissions.

In reading through the list, I saw for the first time some encouragement for requesting permission to use the Herblock Collection, which made me very happy! Nearly every time I do a search, I find some perfect Herblock cartoons, but I have always felt that I could not use them. Here's what it said:

Herbert L. Block ("Herblock") chronicled major social and political events in editorial cartoons that began to appear in newspapers in 1929 and continued until 2001. Herblock regularly commented on international events and domestic developments during the Cold War, including nuclear weapons, Cuba in the 1960s, Russia and China in the 1950s and 1960s, the Korean and Vietnam wars, communism and anti-communism. Permission for use must be requested from the Herblock Foundation; they are **generally generous in granting permission for classroom and student use** (see the [Herbert Block rights information](#)).




### Teaching Notes:

These are very practical tips,  [Mary Johnson](#)


I had not seen the Cold War Images Research Guide, which looks great! I really like the references to Herblock cartoons. There have been so many times that I have wanted to use a copyright restricted Herblock cartoon! I did request and was granted permission from the Herblock foundation to use a copyrighted cartoon for one classroom one time. That was some time ago. Do you know if the policy has changed in regard to posting a Herblock cartoon on a Network such as this one, or on school websites? Just curious.

### Teaching Notes:

 [Ann Canning](#), we always encourage our users to follow copyright guidelines, but as you know, copyright can seem like a slippery slope. I worry that when any user displays items such as the Herblock cartoons, it might give other members the impression that the TPS Teachers Network itself has cleared them for use, but that would be inaccurate.

I think it would be advisable for individual users to write for permissions. In the case of the Herblock estate, I would be interested to know if the estate recommends specific language when they give permission to use their cartoons. I wonder, for example, if their permission language indicates anything about fair use guidelines in classrooms or school websites. It would be so helpful if they provided quite broad wording that covered multiple educational uses and platforms.

Clear as mud? That's how I always feel when responding to copyright questions! I should probably watch the new TPS PD module on [Copyright and Primary Sources](#).

Maybe  [Lana Lewter](#) would like to do a test of the Herblock permissions process!



### Teaching Notes:



[Mary Johnson](#)

I have two examples of Herblock Estate permissions to TPS partners. Both were very specific and limited to digital use (no print copies) for a stated time period and defined credits.

2012 TPS ER received permission for 6 weeks to use Pointing Their Pens, a Herblock Exhibit with 20 participants in an online PD course.

In 2023 The Center for Slavic Studies at U.N.C. received permission to publish their [Visual Guide to the Cold War](#) with 90 Herblock cartoons for 10 years on the Internet as part of a TPS ER grant. Some of these cartoons are not available as high definition images at loc.gov.

We have taken the position that it is best to link to the loc.gov copies of the Herblock cartoons for inquiry and not download them. That limits us to the ones found in the Herblock exhibits or the U.NC. website because the others are too small for detail analysis.



## Teaching Notes:



[Lana Lewter](#) ,

Hi Lana,

I have sent you down the wrong rabbit hole at LOC.gov. When that happens, I try to think of different search terms. Perhaps Soviet Union and Cold War are not the subject headings the LOC staff chose. The [Research Guide](#) that Mary Johnson suggested on the Cold War recommended looking for names of countries rather than the phrase Cold War which is general and was applied later. A search for Russia +USSR + classroom came up with this 6<sup>th</sup> grade photo but it may not fit into your lesson plan. It has no copyright restrictions.

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/fsa.8e01056/>

One more path to take is [AskALibrarian](#). This LOC feature is staffed by expert Librarians who will respond in 5 business days. This week is our last class but you still have 2 weeks to complete your album. It would be worth asking for help at the very center of LOC.gov.

--Ann

--Ann

**NEW YORK, NEW YORK STUDENTS PLEDGING ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG IN PUBLIC**



**Teaching Notes:**

This is an image of students pledging allegiance to the American flag in 1943. The pledge of allegiance to the American flag is a tradition that began on October 2, 1892 and continues to this day. This is a highly regarded and familiar act performed each morning but students around the United States.

Teaching Note: This image would be compared to an image of a classroom in the Soviet Union to discuss similarities and differences between the two.

**Guiding Questions:**

What aspects of this picture are familiar to you? What aspects are uniquely American? What aspects to you see in the both the image of the American classroom and the Soviet Union Classroom? What is the date of the picture? What in history is happening during this time period?

**Suggestions for Procedure:**

1. This may be done as a whole class activity or the teacher may place students in groups.
2. The teacher may choose to show all the pictures at once or split them, even splitting the images up among the groups.

The goal is that students see how similar or different education looks in different countries. [6 - 8](#) [Social Studies/History](#) [United States](#)



**Reference Link:** <http://www.loc.gov/item/2017845722/>

Created / Published

- 1943 Jan.

Genre

- Nitrate negatives

Notes

- - Title and other information from caption card.
- - Transfer; United States. Office of War Information. Overseas Picture Division. Washington Division; 1944.
- - More information about the FSA/OWI Collection is available at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.fsaowi>
- - Temp. note: owibatch3
- - Film copy on SIS roll 12, frame 1709.

Repository

- Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA  
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print>

Digital Id

- cph 3c31506 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3c31506
- fsa 8d25792 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/fsa.8d25792

**SIXTH GRADE SCHOOL ROOM IN THE LATVIAN USSR (UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST**



**Teaching Notes:**

This picture is almost an universally know image for many students. Students from many different countries could identify with completing assignments at a desk while the teacher walks around the classroom. This picture was taken of students in the Soviet Union.

Teaching Note: This image would be compared to an image of a classroom in the United States to discuss similarities and differences between the two.

Guiding Questions: What aspects of this picture are familiar to you? What aspects to you see in the both the image of the American classroom and the Soviet Union Classroom? Do you notice any differences? What is the date of the picture? What in history is happening during this time period?

**Suggestions for Procedure:**

1. This may be done as a whole class activity or the teacher may place students in groups.
2. The teacher may choose to show all the pictures at once or split them, even splitting the images up among the groups.

The goal is that students see how similar or different education looks in different countries. [6 - 8](#) [Social Studies/History](#) [Soviet Union](#) [School](#)

**Reference Link:** <http://www.loc.gov/item/2017872083/>



#### Created / Published

- between 1930 and 1940?

#### Genre

- Safety film negatives

#### Notes

- - Image source: National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, New York.
- - Title and other information from caption card.
- - Transfer; United States. Office of War Information. Overseas Picture Division. Washington Division; 1944.
- - More information about the FSA/OWI Collection is available at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.fsaowi>
- - Temp. note: owibatch6
- - Film copy on SIS roll 0, frame 0.

#### Repository

- Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA  
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print>

#### Digital Id

- fsa 8e01056 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/fsa.8e01056

MOSCO



SCHOOL

### Teaching Notes:

This is a primary school in Moscow, Russia.

Teaching Note: This image is meant to be compared with the school in the United States.

Guiding Questions: What is this a picture of? Who are the people? Is this a place you have been? What do you think the people do there?

Suggestions for Procedure:

1. This may be done as a whole class activity or the teacher may place students in groups.
2. The teacher may choose to show all the pictures at once or split them, even splitting the images up among the groups.

The goal is that students see how similar or different education looks in different countries. [6 - 8](#) [Social Studies/History](#) [Soviet Union](#) [School](#)

**Reference Link:** <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2017872082/>

Date Created/Published: between 1930 and 1940?

Call Number: LC-USW33- 024253-C [P&P]

Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print>



Notes: Image source: National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, New York. Title and other information from caption card. Transfer; United States. Office of War Information. Overseas Picture Division. Washington Division; 1944. More information about the FSA/OWI Collection is available at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.fsaowi> Temp. note: owibatch6 Film copy on SIS roll 0, frame 0.  
Subjects: Soviet Union--Russia--Moscow.



### Teaching Notes:

This is an image of a primary school in the United States, specifically, the state of Texas during the 1940s.

Teaching Note: This image is meant to be compared with the school in the Soviet Union.

Guiding Questions: What is this a picture of? Who are the people? Is this a place you have been? What do you think the people do there?

Suggestions for Procedure:

1. This may be done as a whole class activity or the teacher may place students in groups.
2. The teacher may choose to show all the pictures at once or split them, even splitting the images up among the groups.

The goal is that students see how similar or different education looks in different countries. [6 - 8](#) [Social Studies/History](#) [United States](#) [School](#)

Reference Link: <http://www.loc.gov/item/2017852451/>

Created / Published

- 1943 Apr.

Genre



- Safety film negatives

#### Notes

- - Title and other information from caption card.
- - Transfer; United States. Office of War Information. Overseas Picture Division. Washington Division; 1944.
- - More information about the FSA/OWI Collection is available at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.fsaowi>
- - Temp. note: owibatch4
- - Film copy on SIS roll 8, frame 1069.

#### Repository

- Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA  
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print>

#### Digital Id

- fsa 8d17520 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/fsa.8d17520