

Educator Outline

Grade Level(s)	High School
Time Allotment	1 to 2 periods
Standards Alignment	Ohio's Learning Standards: High School American History 2, 3, 16
Student Learning Outcomes	Students will learn how to research using Chronicling America, how to translate and analyze foreign-language texts, and gain a deeper understanding of the German-American experience in Ohio during World War I.
Vocabulary	database: organized collection of information in digital form; keyword: a term used as to retrieve documents in a database or search engine; limit: to search only part of the database; newspaper: a publication reporting information and current events; news: information about recent events, a presentation of such information in a newspaper or on television; headline: display type placed over a story summarizing the story for the reader; bias: a particular tendency or inclination, especially one that prevents unprejudiced consideration of a question

Bell Ringer

- Provide students about three minutes to write down their responses in their notebooks. After students are finished, choose four random students to share what they think.
- Then state something like: "There has been debate about the use of foreign languages by immigrants in the United States for some time. For many English-speaking Americans, the use of foreign languages makes us uncomfortable, just as it would be uncomfortable for French people to hear us speak English in their country. Increasingly, there has been increased tolerance for the diversity of languages spoken in the U.S. Today we will look at how the German language was perceived in Ohio during WWI and once again Ohio's historic newspapers offer some clues."

Activity 1: Watch and Wonder: Foreign Languages in Today's Society

- Have students reflect on the question while watching each of the videos. Select three or four students to share their thoughts with the class.

Activity 2: Analyze and Wonder: German-Americans in Ohio

- Before students start reading the article, review the questions they should be thinking about. After completing the reading, emphasize that the use of the German language was thoroughly under attack during WWI.

Activity 3: Federal Investigation

- Provide digital links or shorten the URLs using a service like TinyURL, Bitly or Google URL Shortener. Direct access to the articles will improve students' abilities to translate the text.
- You may choose to provide the translations along with links and images.

Activity 4: Federal Investigation Team's Official Written Statement

- If there is time after students write their statements, have each group write it on the board and discuss the similarities and differences in each groups' statements.

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Sign outside restaurant at Monte Bré in Lugano, Switzerland

Image: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/maqdalar/2950663799>

Question: In your opinion, do you think immigrants and foreigners in America should speak their native languages in public? Explain your answer in three complete sentences.

Activity 1: Watch and Wonder: Foreign Languages in Today's Society

Instructions: Think about the following question as you watch the videos: What is your opinion of each of these situations involving the use of foreign language in public?

- Airline Allegedly Removes Man for Speaking Arabic (CBS This Morning)
<https://youtu.be/987fkumGuK0>
- Use of Spanish in an American Restaurant (ABC's What Would You Do?)
<https://youtu.be/tNaP73ezULI>



A trilingual sign (Arabic, English, Urdu) in the United Arab Emirates in the three languages spoken widely there

Image: Wikimedia Commons

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multilingualism#/media/File:UAE_signboard.jpg

Activity 2: Analyze and Wonder: German-Americans in Ohio

Instructions: Think about the questions below as we read this article:

http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/w/German_Ohioans

- How did German immigrants attempt to maintain their culture in Ohio towns and cities?
- Why were native-born and “nativist” Americans against the influx of German immigrants into Ohio?
- How did WWI affect German-American culture in Ohio?



German population in United States, 1872

Image: Wikimedia Commons

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:German_population_1872.jpg



The Democratic Banner (Mt. Vernon, Ohio), May 14, 1918, Image 4, col. 4.

Image: *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers, Library of Congress*
<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn88078751/1918-05-14/ed-1/seq-4/>

Activity 3: Federal Investigation

During the WWI years, suspicions surrounded the *Volksblatt*, a daily Cincinnati newspaper printed almost completely in German. On October 6, 1917, government agents stormed the *Volksblatt*'s offices to determine if the German-American newspaper was publishing "seditious" articles, meaning these articles encouraged people to rebel against government authorities and the American war effort.

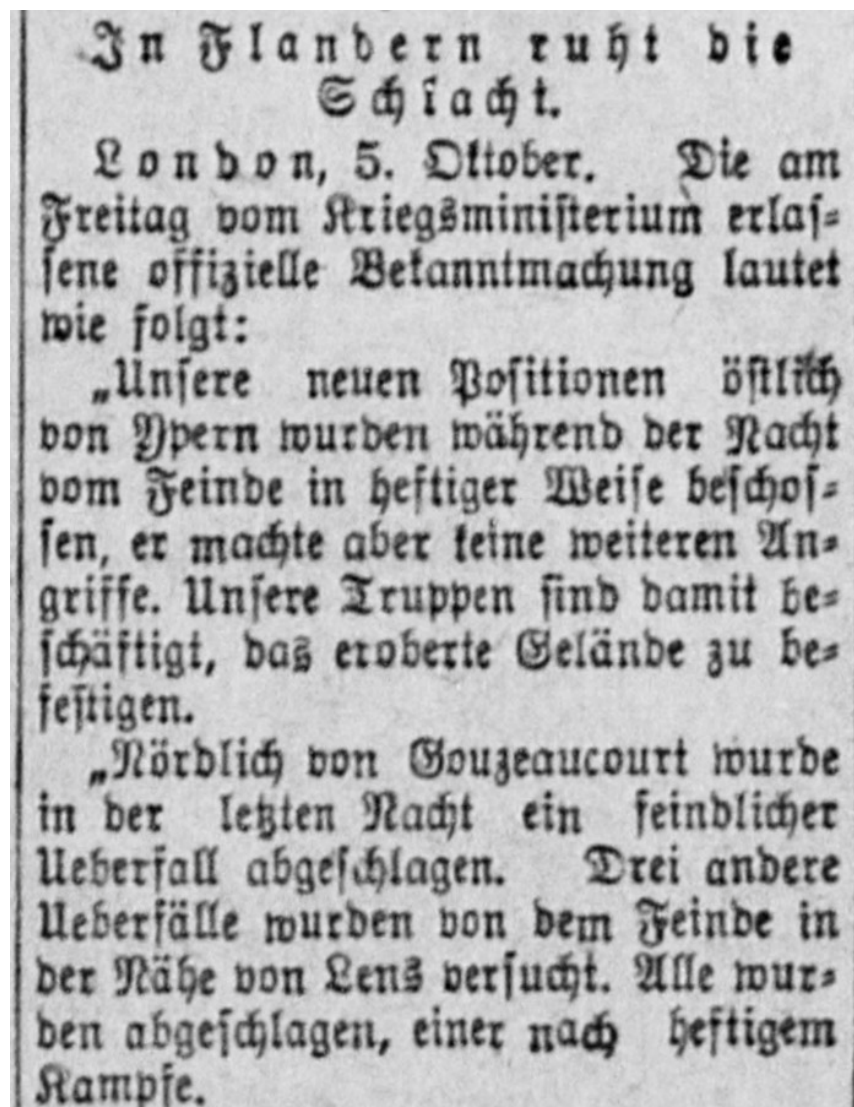
Instructions: Within your group of 2-3, you will be placed in the role of those federal agents, translating the October 6, 1917 issue of the *Volksblatt* to determine if its editors were publishing seditious articles.

Questions to think about:

- What does this report seem to be about?
- Is this enough evidence to prove whether this newspaper is "seditious"?

Use the following Fraktur font chart to decipher letters:

A a	A a	J j	J j	S s	S s
Ä ä	Ä ä	K k	K k	T t	T t
B b	B b	L l	L l	U u	U u
C c	C c	M m	M m	Ü ü	Ü ü
D d	D d	N n	N n	V v	V v
E e	E e	O o	O o	W w	W w
F f	F f	Ö ö	Ö ö	X x	X x
G g	G g	P p	P p	Y y	Y y
H h	H h	Q q	Q q	Z z	Z z
I i	I i	R r	R r	ß	ß



Tägliches Cincinnati Volksblatt (Cincinnati, Ohio), October 6, 1917, Image 1, col. 3.

Image: *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, Library of Congress
<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045474/1917-10-06/ed-1/seq-1/>

The German-American Experience During World War I
Lesson 2: Assault on German Language

Approximate translation:

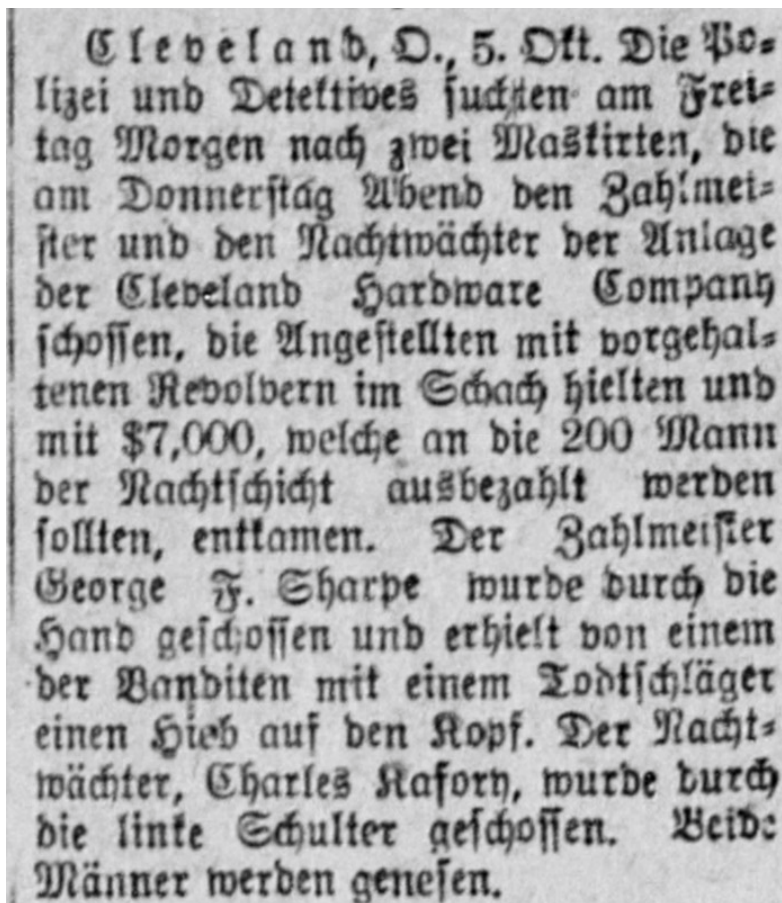
London, October 5, "The official announcement made on Friday by the Minister of Defense is as follows:

Our new positions east of Ypren were fiercely fired at last night by the enemy, but we made successful counterattacks. Our troops are stationed near the conquered Celande.

To the north of Couzequcourt, last night, the enemy attempted a new attack near Lens. The enemy was completely beaten down, one charge after another."

Instructions: Now, with your group, read the following translated articles from the October 6, 1917 issue, gathering evidence about whether the *Volksblatt* was engaging in "seditious" publishing and keeping the following questions in mind.

- What does this report seem to be about?
- Is this enough evidence to prove whether this newspaper is "seditious"?



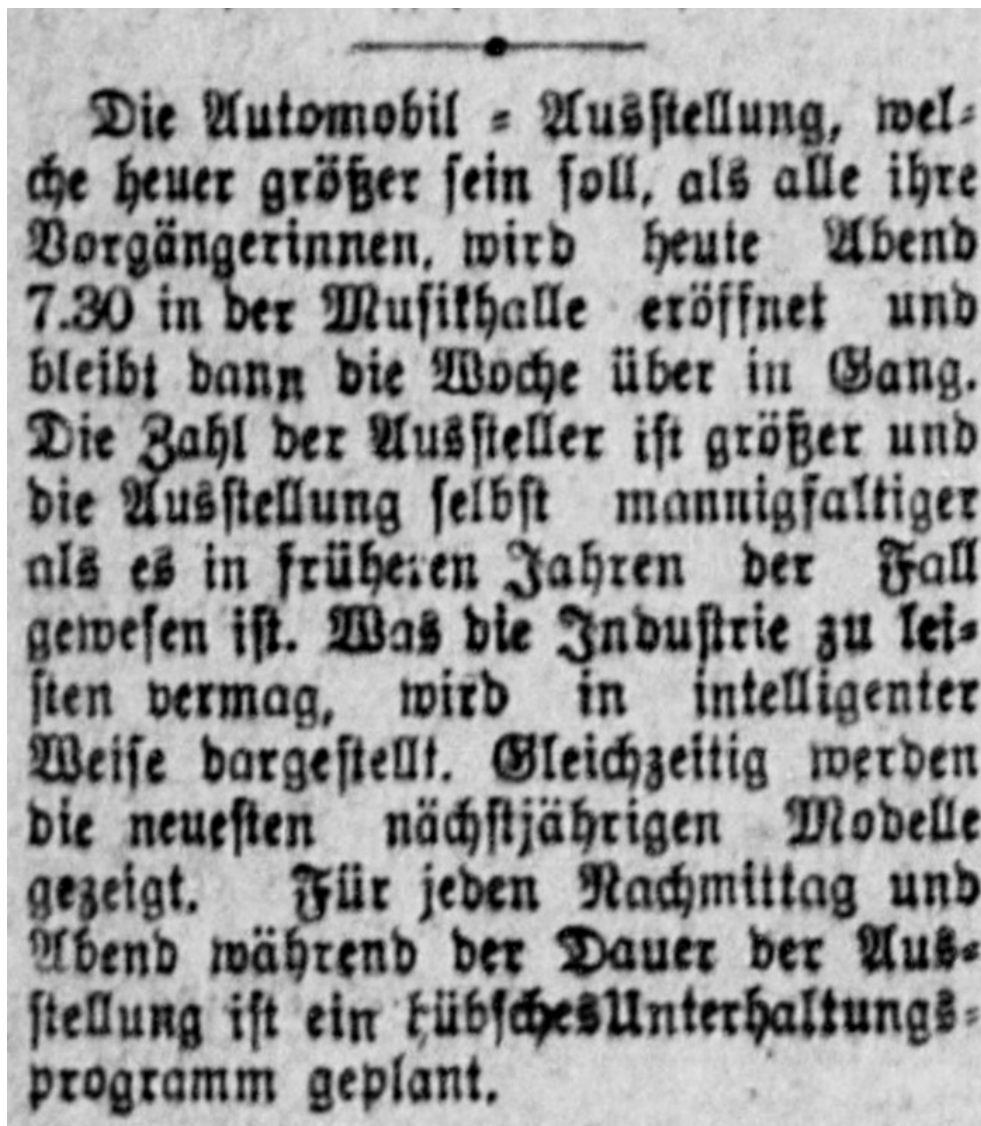
Cleveland, O., 5. Okt. Die Polizei und Detektives suchten am Freitag Morgen nach zwei Maskirten, die am Donnerstag Abend den Zahlmeister und den Nachtwächter der Anlage der Cleveland Hardware Company schossen, die Angestellten mit vorgehaltenen Revolvern im Schwach hielten und mit \$7,000, welche an die 200 Mann der Nachtschicht ausbezahlt werden sollten, entkamen. Der Zahlmeister George F. Sharpe wurde durch die Hand geschossen und erhielt von einem der Banditen mit einem Todtschläger einen Hieb auf den Kopf. Der Nachtwächter, Charles Rasorn, wurde durch die linke Schulter geschossen. Beide Männer werden genesen.

Tägliches Cincinnatier Volksblatt (Cincinnati, Ohio), October 6, 1917, Image 3, col. 3.

Image: Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers, Library of Congress
<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045474/1917-10-06/ed-1/seq-3/>

Approximate translation:

Cleveland, October 5, "The police and detectives' searched on Friday morning for two bandits on Thursday who broke into the Cleveland Hardware Company. They injured two persons with hand guns and took \$ 7,000 from night shift workers. The paymaster, George Sharpe, was shot in the hand and was thrown by one of the bandits, causing a head injury. Another nightworker, Charles Rasorn, was shot through the shoulder. Both men will recover."



Die Automobil = Ausstellung, welche heuer größer sein soll, als alle ihre Vorgängerinnen, wird heute Abend 7.30 in der Musikhalle eröffnet und bleibt dann die Woche über in Gang. Die Zahl der Aussteller ist größer und die Ausstellung selbst mannigfaltiger als es in früheren Jahren der Fall gewesen ist. Was die Industrie zu leisten vermag, wird in intelligenter Weise dargestellt. Gleichzeitig werden die neuesten nächstjährigen Modelle gezeigt. Für jeden Nachmittag und Abend während der Dauer der Ausstellung ist ein hübsches Unterhaltungsprogramm geplant.

Tägliches Cincinnati Volksblatt (Cincinnati, Ohio), October 6, 1917, Image 5, col. 1.

*Image: Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers, Library of Congress
<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045474/1917-10-06/ed-1/seq-5/>*

Approximate translation:

The automobile show, which will be bigger this year than all of its predecessors, will be tonight 7:30 in the music hall and will be open the rest of the week. The number of exhibitors greater and the exhibition itself is grander it has been in earlier years. Due to more intelligent minds in the field, the automobile industry is able to achieve more. All of the latest automobiles and even next year models will be shown every afternoon and evening throughout the duration of the exhibition.

Berlin, 5. Oktober. Die oberste Heeresleitung kündigte am Freitag an, daß der Gewinn an Boden, den die Briten als Folge des am Donnerstag bei Ypern ausgeführten Angriffs gemacht, auf einen Streifen Landes von einem bis einem und einem halben Kilometer Tiefe beschränkt sei, der sich von Poelcapelle über den östlichen Abhang von Zonnebeke und längs der nach Becelaere führenden Straße erstreckt. Das letztere Dorf und das heiß umstrittene Dorf Gheluvelt, heißt es in der Ankündigung, blieben vollständig im Besitz der Deutschen.

In dem Bericht heißt es weiter, daß die Schlacht vom Donnerstag eine außerordentlich heisse war, die vierte Armee dem Angriff der Briten erfolgreich widerstanden habe. Die Briten, die an einer 15 Kilometer langen Front vorrückten, gewannen anfänglich an Boden, waren aber nicht im Stande, ihn zu behaupten.

Die Briten hatten wenigstens elf Divisionen verwendet und ihre Verluste waren sehr groß, heißt es in dem Bericht. Der britische Vorstoß brach zusammen, ehe die Engländer ihre Ziele erreichten, die nicht, wie behauptet wurde, eine kurze Strecke vorauslagen, sondern ohne Zweifel in viel größerer Entfernung. Den deutschen Truppen in Flandern wird großes Lob für ihre Tapferkeit gezollt.

Tägliches Cincinnati Volksblatt (Cincinnati, Ohio), October 6, 1917, Image 5, col. 1.

Image: Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers, Library of Congress
<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045474/1917-10-06/ed-1/seq-5/>

Approximate translation:

Berlin, October 5, "The supreme military command announced on Friday a gain in ground made by the German elites resulted from the attack on Thursday. The strip of land measures a half kilometer, which extends from Polclape over the eastern slope of Zonnebeke and along the Becelaere road. The latter village and the hotly disputed village of Gheluvelt, as stated in the announcement, remained completely in the possession of the German military.

The report also states that the battle of Thursday was extraordinarily heated and successfully resisted the attack of the British. The British, who were advancing on a 12-kilometer front, gained some ground, but were unable to assert it.

The British had at least eleven divisions and used their very large ships, as stated in the Report. The British attack broke before they achieved their desired goals that were not, as claimed, a short distance ahead but at a much greater distance. The German troops in Flanders are highly praised for their bravery."

Activity 4: Federal Investigation Team's Official Written Statement

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

Instructions: With your investigation group, write an official written statement that summarizes what you found during your analysis of the *Volksblatt*. Also, make a final conclusion as to whether you believe this newspaper is seditious or not. Your written statement must be at least five sentences.