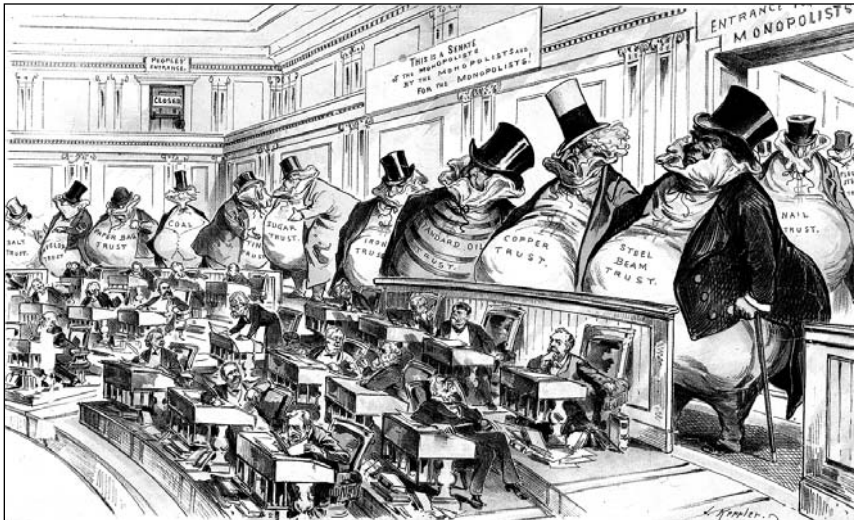


Social Studies Analyzing Political Cartoons



This famous cartoon by Joseph Keppler was published in 1889, about two years after the passage of the first federal antitrust laws. Use the steps below to help you analyze the cartoon and discover the different techniques Keppler uses to express his observations and opinions on the effectiveness of the new antitrust laws.



Culver Pictures

1. Identify the symbols in the cartoon. (a) What is the setting for this cartoon? _____

(b) Describe the two entrances into the room. _____

(c) What has happened to the smaller entrance? _____

(d) How does Keppler represent the trusts? _____

2. Analyze the meaning of the cartoon. (a) How are most of the senators reacting to the trusts? _____

(b) Where is the will of the American people in this situation? _____
3. Draw conclusions about the cartoonist's intent. (a) What point does Keppler make about the attitude of the Senate toward the trusts and the American people? _____

(b) What is the cartoonist saying about the success of antitrust laws in the late 1880s? _____
