



## Activity #1: The Difficulty of American Neutrality

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Listen carefully as the following document is read aloud. Then answer the questions that follow the source.

Excerpts from President Wilson's Declaration of Neutrality (August 19, 1914):  
<http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914/wilsonneut.html>

The effect of the war upon the United States will depend upon what American citizens say and do. Every man who really loves America will act and speak in the true spirit of neutrality, which is the spirit of impartiality and fairness and friendliness . . .

The people of the United States are drawn from many nations, and chiefly from the nations now at war. It is natural and inevitable that there should be the utmost variety of sympathy and desire among them with regard to the issues and circumstances of the conflict. Some will wish one nation, others another, to succeed in the momentous struggle. It will be easy to excite passion and difficult to allay it. Those responsible for exciting it will assume a heavy responsibility, responsibility for no less a thing than that the people of the United States . . . may be divided in camps of hostile opinion, hot against each other, involved in the war itself in impulse and opinion if not in action.

Such divisions amongst us would be fatal to our peace of mind and might seriously stand in the way of the proper performance of our duty as the one great nation at peace . . .

I venture, therefore, my fellow countrymen, to speak a solemn word of warning to you against that deepest, most subtle, most essential breach of neutrality which may spring out of partisanship, out of passionately taking sides. The United States must be neutral in fact, as well as in name, during these days that are to try men's souls. We must be impartial in thought, as well as action, must put a curb upon our sentiments, as well as upon every transaction that might be construed as a preference of one party to the struggle before another.

Question	Answer
According to Wilson, how will people who love America react to the war in Europe?	
Why does the variety of the national origins of Americans present a challenge to neutrality?	
Why would differing views toward the war be dangerous for America?	

## Data Packet

### Data Sample #1:

Value of U.S. exports for 1914:

1914 - \$824.8 million to Allies

1914 - \$169.3 million to Central Powers

Value of U.S. exports for 1916:

1916 - \$3.2 billion to Allies

1916 - \$1.2 million to Central Powers

Value of U.S. loans for 1917:

1917 - \$2.5 billion to Allies

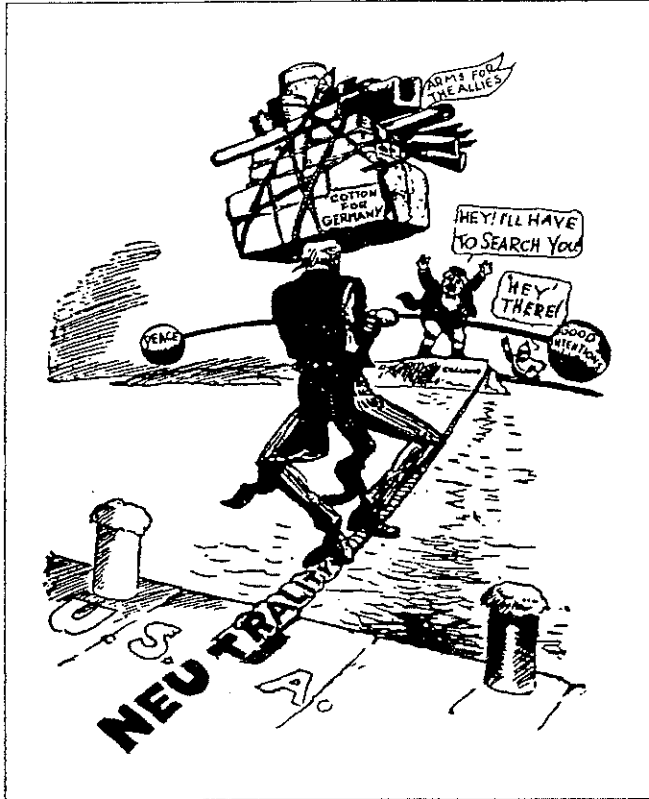
1917 - \$27million to Central Powers

Source: [http://edsitement.neh.gov/view\\_lesson\\_plan.asp?id=474](http://edsitement.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?id=474)

# AMERICAN NEUTRALITY: ANALYZING POLITICAL CARTOONS

Examine the cartoon below. It was printed in *The Chicago Tribune* when the United States was following a policy of neutrality. Then answer the questions below.

John T. McCutcheon in the *Chicago Tribune*



1. Who is the person on the tightrope? What does he represent? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the person on the tightrope doing?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is on his head? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is he holding? What does it represent and why is he holding it? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What does the tightrope represent? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Who is saying, "Hey! I'll have to search you!"? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Who is saying, "Hey! There!"? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What does this cartoon mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

