

SOURCEWORK

THE HEATHEN CHINESE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

HEATHEN CHINESE: "Why do you send me offee?"

AMOR DE COSMOS (The Love of the World or the Lover of Mankind): "Because you can't or won't assimilate with us".

HEATHEN CHINESE: "What is datee?"

AMOR DE COSMOS: "You won't drink whisky, and talk policies and vote like us."



Use the above cartoon (you can see a colour version on p.238 of Horizons) for the following questions. What is the cartoonist's point of view? Is he anti-Chinese or is he objecting to De Cosmos' behaviour? How could the text caption be considered racist? Explain or justify your answers.

QUOTE

"The Chinaman is in every respect the reverse of an European.... His religion, his notions of honor and rank, his mode of thought, his dress, his amusements, his sense of beauty, his vices (bad or immoral practices) are not to our taste at all, or such as we can take to or even understand; and his language... appears to us at once incomprehensible (unable to understand) and ridiculous.... What is most annoying, they come here and beat us on our own ground in supplying our wants. They are inferior, too, in weight and size of muscle, and yet they work more steadily and with better success on the average than the white man." Sir Matthew Begbie Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of BC

What type of document is the above? **Primary or Secondary.** How do you know?

Why is it important to note Begbie's job when looking at his opinions?

How does Begbie's quote contradict itself (say two opposite ideas)?

How is Begbie's quote similar to the cartoon above?