



UNCLE SAM

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I) ANTICIPATION

Regardez attentivement l'image ci-dessus. A l'aide de vos propres connaissances, essayez de répondre à ces questions:

- > *Who is this character? What is his name? What country does he represent?*
- > *Describe this image in English: his clothes, the colours, his actions...*
- > *When was this poster realised? Why?*

II) COMPREHENSION ECRITE

>> **LE TEXTE:**

Uncle Sam

Uncle Sam is a fun name for the United States government. The drawing of a man called Uncle Sam is used to represent the federal government on large signs called posters. His name, Uncle Sam, uses the same first letters as the words United States: a "U" and an "S".

History experts are not really sure how Uncle Sam was created or how he was named. However, some say the name was first used on supply containers during the War of 1812.

People in the northeastern city of Troy, New York think they know the true story. They say that Uncle Sam was a person named Samuel Wilson. Many people in Troy believe that Mister Wilson is linked to the first use of the term "Uncle Sam" to represent the United States.

This is their story:

Samuel Wilson worked as a meat packer in Troy during the War of 1812. He often was called Uncle Sam because he was so friendly and fair. Mister Wilson supplied large amounts of meat to the Army. The meat was sent to the troops in rounded wooden containers. The barrels were marked with the letters "U S" to show they were meant for the government. Someone suggested that the letters represented "Uncle Sam" Wilson. The idea that the meat came

from "Uncle Sam" led to the idea that Uncle Sam represented the federal government.

Samuel Wilson did not look like the drawing of Uncle Sam. The most famous drawings show him dressed in clothes showing stars and stripes. They appeared in political cartoons. Famous newspaper cartoonist Thomas Nast produced many of the earliest drawings of Uncle Sam in the 1830s.

>> QUESTIONS:

1. Who is "Uncle Sam"?

- a) A famous basketball player*
- b) A famous singer*
- c) A personification of the United States government*

2. Everybody knows why "Uncle Sam" is linked to the US government.

- a) TRUE*
- b) FALSE*

3. Some people think that the origins of "Uncle Sam" come from someone living in...

- a) England*
- b) Australia*
- c) America*

4. The phrase "Uncle Sam" probably comes from...

- a) Mr Wilson*
- b) Mr Troy*
- c) Mr Samuel*

5. When was Samuel Wilson born?

- a) In the sixteenth century*
- b) In the seventeenth century*
- c) In the eighteenth century*

6. Why was Samuel Wilson often called "Uncle Sam"?

- a) Because he was very old*
- b) Because he was very friendly*
- c) Because he was very sad*

7. What was Samuel Wilson's job during the war of 1812?

- a) He was a soldier*
- b) He was a meat supplier*
- c) He was a doctor*

8. Some people thought that Samuel Wilson was linked to the US government because his nickname contained the initials of the US government.

- a) TRUE*
- b) FALSE*

9. The current representation of Uncle Sam is a photo of Samuel Wilson.

- a) TRUE*
- b) FALSE*

10. When were the first drawings published?

- a) In the 1730s*
- b) In the 1830s*
- c) In the 1930s*

III) COMPREHENSION ORALE

Voici le script de l'enregistrement audio. Sans utiliser d'aide, essayez de replacer les termes importants aux bons endroits:

1917, beard, century, finger, men, picture, representation, Want

Uncle Sam In the twentieth _____ (1), Uncle Sam was shown with a short white _____ (2), high hat and long-tailed coat. The single most famous _____ (3) of him is a large sign painted by James Montgomery Flagg in about _____ (4). Its aim was to influence young American young _____ (5) to go into the army during World War One. It shows Uncle Sam pointing his _____ (6). Above him are written the words "I _____ (7) You." Congress approved Uncle Sam as an official _____ (8) of the United States in 1961.

IV) GRAMMAIRE

> Le présent simple

People in the northeastern city of Troy, New York **think they know** the true story. They **say** that Uncle Sam was a person named Samuel Wilson. Many people in Troy **believe** that Mister Wilson is linked to the first use of the term "Uncle Sam" to represent the United States.

> **Emplois:** On utilise le présent simple pour des actions habituelles, répétitives ou pour des verbes exprimant des pensées ou des croyances.

> **Syntaxe:** base verbale à toutes les personnes, sauf à la 3e personne du singulier, où il faut rajouter un "-s"

Exemple avec THINK (penser):

I think, you think, he/she/it thinks, we think, you think, they think.

Pour les formes négatives et interrogatives, on utilise DO (ou DOES à la 3e personne du singulier):

Do you play football on Sundays? Yes, I do. No, I don't.

> Exceptions pour la 3e personne du singulier:

– Si le verbe se termine par **S, Z, X, SH, CH, O...** on ajoute **"-es"** au verbe: she **misses** (elle regrette) , she **watches** (elle regarde) , he **washes** (il lave)...

Dans ce cas, la terminaison se prononce [iz]

– Si le verbe se termine par un **-Y**, le **-Y se transforme en "-ies"**: cry > she **cries**; carry > she **carries**

> EXERCICE:

Complétez avec le verbe au présent simple:

Many people (use) the term "Uncle Sam" to designate the U.S.A. They (think) that this term (come) from Samuel Wilson. It (not to come) from a fictitious character. This symbol (represent) the federal government and the power of the USA.

V) VOCABULAIRE

Associer chaque mot avec sa bonne définition.

A) a poster	1) The flesh of animals used as food
B) History	2) Covering designed to be worn on a person's body
C) meat	3) The legislature of the United States government
D) an army	4) A sign posted in a public place as an advertisement
E) clothes	5) The hair growing on the lower part of a man's face
F) a beard	6) Any of the terminal members of the hand
G) a finger	7) The continuum of events occurring in succession leading from the past to the present and even into the future
H) Congress	8) A cylindrical container
I) a barrel	9) A large number of people united for some specific purpose

VI) TRADUCTION DES DOCUMENTS-SUPPORTS

> Compréhension écrite

"Uncle Sam" (Uncle Sam) est un nom amusant pour parler du gouvernement des Etats-Unis. Le dessin d'un homme appelé "Uncle Sam" est souvent utilisé pour représenter le gouvernement fédéral sur de grands panneaux qu'on appelle des posters/affiches. Son nom, Uncle Sam, utilise les mêmes lettres que les mots "United States": un "U" et un "S".

Les experts en histoire ne sont pas vraiment sûrs de la façon dont Uncle Sam a été créé ni d'où son nom vient. Néanmoins, certains disent que le nom a été utilisé pour la première fois sur des containers de provisions pendant la guerre de 1812.

Des personnes de la ville de Troy, dans le Nord-est de l'état de New York pensent connaître la vraie histoire. Ils disent que l'Uncle Sam était une personne qui se nommait Samuel Wilson. Beaucoup de gens à Troy croient que

Monsieur Wilson est lié à la première utilisation de l'expression "Oncle Sam" pour représenter les Etats-Unis. Voici leur histoire:

Samuel Wilson travaillait en tant que fournisseur de viande à Troy, pendant la guerre de 1812. Il était souvent appelé Oncle Sam parce qu'il était très amical et honnête. Monsieur Wilson fournissait de grandes quantités de viande à l'Armée. La viande était envoyée aux troupes dans des containers ronds en bois. Les barils étaient marqués des lettres "U S" pour montrer qu'ils étaient pour le gouvernement. Quelqu'un a suggéré que les lettres représentaient "L'Oncle Sam" Wilson. L'idée que la viande venait de l'Oncle Sam a amené à l'idée que l'Oncle Sam représentait le gouvernement fédéral.

Samuel Wilson ne ressemblait pas au dessin de l'Oncle Sam. Les dessins les plus célèbres le montrent habillé dans des habits recouverts d'étoiles et de rayures. Ils sont parus dans des dessins politiques. Le dessinateur célèbre de journal Thomas Nast a fourni beaucoup des premiers dessins de l'Oncle Sam dans les années 30.

> Compréhension orale

Au 20e siècle, on montrait l'Oncle Sam avec une petite barbe blanche, un grand chapeau et un manteau à longue queue. L'unique dessin le plus célèbre de lui est un grand panneau peint par James Montgomery Flagg en 1917. Son but était de pousser les jeunes gens américains à entrer dans l'armée pendant la première guerre mondiale. Il montre l'Oncle Sam pointant de son doigt. En dessous de lui, les mots "I want you" sont inscrits. Le Congrès a approuvé l'utilisation de l'Oncle Sam en tant que représentation officielle des Etats-Unis en 1961.

VII) REPOSES

> **Compréhension écrite:** 1. (c) 2. (b) 3. (c) 4. (a) 5. (c) 6. (b) 7. (b) 8. (a) 9. (b) 10. (b) *Retrouvez les justifications sur internet.*

> **Compréhension orale:** (1) century – (2) beard – (3) picture – (4) 1917 – (5) men – (6) finger – (7) Want – (8) representation

> **Grammaire:**

Many people USE the term "Uncle Sam" to designate the U.S.A. They THINK that this term COMES from Samuel Wilson. It DOES NOT (=DOESN'T) COME from a fictitious character. This symbol REPRESENTS the federal government and the power of the USA.

> **Vocabulaire:** a4 – b7 – c1 – d9 – e2 – f5 – g6 – h3 – i8

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