As the world lurches into a new Olympic season, take a few minutes to check out the Olympic opening ceremony production from London 2012. You don't have to watch the whole thing, but take a gander at about 15-20 minutes, starting with the ringing of the opening bell: https://youtu.be/4As0e4de-rI?t=804

There's just so much there.

You can structure your lesson however you wish, but if you're worried your students might not have anything to say, you could divvy them up and assign groups to look for 1) what the announcer is saying, 2) what the performers look like, 3) how nature is represented (and removed), 4) how the set changes during the span of 15-20 minutes.

Those observations could lead to a discussion of 1) what was gained during the Industrial Revolution, 2) what was lost, 3) who is represented in this production, 4) who is left out, 5) how the producers go from the Industrial Revolution to war without making any connection between the two.

Important to note that the onset of the Industrial Revolution happened at the same time the UK had colonized a good chunk of the planet. That could factor into your discussion as well.

At one point, you can see that members of the audience are recording it on their cell phones. That could serve as another prompt for discussing what was gained and what was lost.

NJ State Standards: 1.4.12prof.Cr1a-b, Cr2a-c, Cn10a-11a; 6.2.12. Civics.DP.3.b; 6.2.12.EconGE.3.a-b

#Olympics #Olympicopeningceremony #industrialrevolution #climatechange #climatecrisis #climateeducation #climatenj #njteach #njdoe #njstandards #vpastandards #history #socialstudies #whitewashing #misdeeds #stunning