QUESTIONS TO ANALYZE ILLUSTRATIONS

PART I

- 1. What is the date of publication?
- 2. What is happening in the scene depicted?
- 3. What stereotypic habit or custom of the Chinese community is depicted?
- 4. What symbols do you see in the illustration—things or people meant to represent ideas or stereotypes?
- 5. Why would a newspaper or magazine include such an illustration? What emotions is the illustrator trying to make people feel?
- 6. How does this illustration serve to perpetuate a false, exaggerated, racist, or stereotypic image of the Chinese?

PART II

- 1. What words would you use to describe the Chinese immigrants who are depicted in these illustrations? As a group, write a list of at least five adjectives.
- 2. Since most Americans did not know any Chinese immigrants personally, illustrations in newspapers and magazines were often the only time they saw Chinese people. How would these illustrations have influenced Americans' opinions about the Chinese and about Chinese immigration?
- 3. How do you think the daily lives of Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans were affected by these negative stereotypes and images?