How Images May Be Used to "Brainstorm"

By B. Rhyne

Do you recall as a kid sitting at the breakfast table staring at pictures on a cereal box. These images often carried us to faraway places. Vivid images can also be used to generate a long list of ideas.

Take this popular image from World War 2. What kinds of questions does it raise? For starters, who is she? Where did she come from? What does the red scarf mean? Why is she flexing her muscles? How does this image relate to World War II? What does "We can do it?" mean? Does this woman represent others like her in this era? How does the strength of a woman relate to war?

You get the idea. Images can evoke many questions. So, provide links on the wiki to images that relate to the general playground area for the research topic. Students can gather in groups and use the "who, what, when, where, and how" method to generate a list of questions that will lead to the preliminary research using Internet sources.

