Between the lines
When Prime Minister Stephen Harper suspended Parliament until Jan. 26, 2009, Canadians found themselves embroiled in an unusual political showdown. The suspension, known as prorogue, was Harper's response to the growing political threat his minority Conservative government faces from opposition parties dissatisfied by the government's response to the country's economic crisis.

Prorogue? Oh, Canada!

Talking points
1. Canadian cartoonist Tab, manages to both sum up the Prime Minister's situation and define “prorogue” with a cartoon analogy of “Custer's last stand.” Define analogy and explain how it's used here.
2. What's Tab's take on the political crisis based on the top cartoon? Do you think he supports the Prime Minister suspending government to avoid a power showdown?
3. In the bottom cartoon Tab uses another pop culture reference to make fun of Stephen Harper. What's the reference? Now explain the punch line.

Additional resources
More cartoons by Tab
http://cagle.com/politicalcartoons/PCcartoons/tab.asp
Assn. of American Editorial Cartoonists
http://editorialcartoonists.com/
Assn. of Canadian Editorial Cartoonists
http://www.canadiancartoonists.com/