

WAR OF 1812

Primary Learning Outcomes

To provide students with an introduction to the second American war, The War of 1812. To discuss the causes of the war and the impact that the war had on American History. A supplemental reading provides greater detail of events that occurred during the war.

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Assessed Standards

Grade: 8

Social Studies

Standard: The student will explain significant factors that affected the development of Georgia as part of the growth of the United States between 1789 and 1840.

Indicator: Evaluate the impact of land policies pursued by Georgia.

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Procedure and Activities

Step: 1 Duration: 0 minutes

Hang the poster (from *Forgotten Invasion* trunk) on a classroom wall to visually represent events leading up to and during the War of 1812.

Attachments for Step 1

War of 1812 Poster

Step: 2 Duration: 20 minutes

Introduce students to the War of 1812 using the attached reading and background information.

Attachments for Step 2

Background Information: Introduction to the War of 1812

Reading: The War of 1812

Step: 3 Duration: 25 minutes

Explain and discuss the three primary causes of the War.

Attachments for Step 3

Background Information: Causes of the War of 1812

Step: 4 Duration: 30 minutes

Explain and discuss the impacts of the War of 1812 on America's future.

Attachments for Step 4

Background Information: Impacts of the War of 1812

Step: 5 Duration: 30 minutes

Divide the class into groups and distribute character cards (from the Forgotten Invasion trunk). Assign one card to each student or group of students (there are 12 cards total). Students should read the back of their cards to learn about their characters' lives. Assign students to write short letters home from their characters.

Attachments for Step 5

Character Cards (set of 12)

Step: 6 Duration: 15 minutes

Play the DVD from the Forgotten Invasion trunk. The video gives an overview of the War of 1812, the skirmish at Point Peter, and the methods archaeologists used to bring the details of that skirmish to light.

Attachments for Step 6

DVD: *Forgotten Invasion* (14 min.)

Step: 7 Duration: 20 minutes

Pass out the classroom puzzle about the War. Allow students to work alone or in groups.

Attachments for Step 7

**Puzzle
Puzzle Answer Sheet**

Step: 8 Duration: 10 minutes

Pass out and have students complete the quiz concerning the War of 1812.

Attachments for Step 8

**Quiz
Quiz Answer Sheet**

Materials and Equipment

Background information, reading, puzzle, quiz, answer sheets, character cards, poster, and video.

Total Duration

2 hours, 30 minutes

Assessment

Students will be assessed on their participation in the classroom activities and discussion. The puzzle will be evaluated for accuracy.

Attachments for Step 1

War of 1812 poster

The poster is in the Forgotten Invasion trunk.

Attachments for Step 2

Introduction to the War of 1812

In 1812, the United States Congress declared war against the British. The war started with an attack on Canada. At the time, Canada belonged to the British. The United States wanted to take control of Canada. They also wanted to cut off British supply lines to a American Indian confederation that was fighting with the British. American naval victories fought on Lake Erie and Lake Champlain kept the northern states, including New York, from being seized by the British.

In 1814, the British landed in the Chesapeake Bay area. They wanted to take control of Washington D.C. The American troops were unable to stop them and the city of Washington was evacuated. The British burned the Capitol Building and the White House. They also set fire to most of the Virginia countryside. The British were stopped when they reached Baltimore Harbor. They were unable to take Fort McHenry and suffered heavy losses. They retreated. The victory in Baltimore Harbor inspired Francis Scott Key to write the Star-Spangled Banner.

In the South, a British squadron landed on Cumberland Island after successfully attacking the town of St. Marys, Georgia on January 25, 1814 . The British leader, Admiral George Cockburn, set up his headquarters at the Dungeness mansion. Cockburn declared the island to be "occupied territory." He said any enslaved Africans on the island were free. Slaves seeking freedom started flocking to the island from all over the coastline. The response was so great that a group of sixty-six slaves paddled twenty-three miles in a wooden canoe to reach the island. In all, 1,483 enslaved Africans joined the British squadron on Cumberland Island.

As the war continued, both the Americans and the British were running low on resources. In December 1814, American negotiators met with British diplomats and signed the Treaty of Ghent which declared peace. Neither the Americans or the British won the war. Trade relations remained the same and the U.S. did not gain any new territory.

Reading: The War of 1812

Attachments for Step 3

Causes of the War of 1812

Why do you think the United States declared war on Great Britain in 1812?

Discuss the possible answers with the students.

There are three primary causes of the War of 1812.

1. Impressment:

Beginning in 1803, the British Navy started seizing American ships in the open ocean and impressing their crews. Impressment meant that the Americans would be forced to serve as sailors for the British Navy. Basically, once a sailor was impressed, they lost their freedom. Between 1803 and the War of 1812, over 10,000 Americans were impressed by the British Navy.

2. Expansion:

Prior to the War of 1812, the United States Congress contained two factions, the Doves and the Hawks. The Doves were primarily from the New England area and were antiwar. The Hawks were mainly from the west and the south. The Hawks believed in American expansion and wanted to take control of Florida, Mexico, and Canada. Canada in particular, belonged to the British. In order to claim these territories, the Hawks wanted to go to war. The Hawks used British impressment of American sailors as a reason to go to war. However, their main goal was to gain new territory.

3. International Shipping Disputes:

Britain and France were already at war. Britain did not want France to receive supplies from the United States. Likewise, France did not want Britain to receive supplies from America. Both countries tried to cut off American shipping. This was disastrous for the U.S. economy. The country went into a depression. Finally in 1810, France dropped all of its shipping restrictions on the United States. However, Great Britain continued to block U.S. shipping and was still impressing American sailors. These acts added fuel to the Hawks' desire to go to war with Great Britain.

Attachments for Step 4

Impacts of the War of 1812 on American History

Although neither the British nor the Americans actually won the war, the war laid the ground work and inspired events that would change America's history.

Based on what you know about the war, can you guess what impact it had on America?

The War of 1812 had six major impacts on America's future.

1. It Broke the Power of American Indians Living in the Northwest and Southwest.

Before the war, American Indian tribes would unite and fight against the attempts of white settlers moving into their territories. The Indian confederacy was lead by a man called Tecumseh. Tecumseh was killed during the War of 1812 in a great battle referred to as the Battle of the Thames. Tecumseh and the Indians were fighting with the British. Once Tecumseh was killed there were no more great unified attempts by the American Indians against white settlers.

2. It Encouraged Western Expansion.

American settlers no longer viewed the western Indian tribes as a great threat. In response, settlers began moving aggressively westward. This was the beginning of a phase in American history referred to as "manifest destiny", the belief that Americans were meant to control all of North America.

3. It Strengthened Canadian National Identity.

Canada was a large colony of Great Britain. It was made up primarily of isolated outposts with a diverse population of immigrants. Fighting the War of 1812, helped bond these jumbled groups and created a nation. Patriotic legends concerning the War of 1812 are still told in Canada today.

4. It Fueled American Sectionalism.

The individual states that made up America had a tradition of breaking into small groups or cliques and passing laws that would benefit their particular groups. During the War of 1812, the New England states did not want to fight because they depended on British shipping. They invoked "states' rights" to retain control over their own soldiers and obstruct the war effort. The "states right" doctrine was later used by southern Democrats to protect slavery and eventually helped cause the Civil War.

5. It Caused the Establishment of a Peacetime Military.

Before the War of 1812, the United States did not have a permanent military. Once war was declared, individual States would try and recruit soldiers for their militias. After the war, President James Madison established a permanent army. The army consisted of 10,000 soldiers and nine navy vessels.

6. It Enhanced America's Reputation in Europe.

After the War of 1812, Europe began to respect the United States. Before this, America had been viewed as a loosely joined group of colonies with no real military power. After the war, a famous Englishman Augustus J. Foster stated "the Americans have had the satisfaction of proving their courage--they have brought us to speak of them with respect." The British stopped their practice of impressing American sailors.

Attachments for Step 5

Character Cards (set of 12)

The Character Cards are in the Forgotten Invasion trunk.

Attachments for Step 6

DVD: *Forgotten Invasion*

The DVD is in the Forgotten Invasion trunk.

Attachments for Step 7

Puzzle

Puzzle Instructions

Fill in the crossword puzzle using the clues on the left side. Once you have finished the puzzle, rearrange the letters in the shaded squares to form Clue #1. Hint: The British and the Americans had an armed _____ at Point Peter in 1815.

Puzzle Answer Sheet

Attachments for Step 8

Quiz

Quiz includes five types of questions:

Multiple Choice

True/False

Short Answer/Fill in the Blank

Matching Association

Short Essay

Quiz Answer Sheet