

THE WAR OF 1812

It wasn't very long after the American Revolution that England and France were at war again. Both nations began to use force to regulate American trade. They each wanted to stop the United States from trading products to its enemy. Both nations attacked our ships.

1. *What are some of the goods that one country would not want its enemy to import during a war?*

Jefferson thought that he could convince England and France to leave U.S. ships alone by prohibiting the shipment of American goods to their countries or any other country in Europe.

To carry out this plan Congress passed the Embargo Act of 1807.

2. *To help explain Jefferson's reasoning write the following sentence in the space set aside in the above paragraph: If U.S. ships were not on the seas, there was no way they could be attacked.*

The embargo was a failure. It hurt the United States far more than it hurt England or France. Business was so poor that tens of thousands of people in the port cities were out of work. People from all over the country, and especially the New England merchants, protested against the embargo. Finally, in 1809 the embargo was discontinued.

3. *What device has the cartoonist used to show what happened to American shipping during the Embargo of 1807?*

Try to think of a short sentence that could be spoken by the American merchant shown in the cartoon. Write your sentence in the empty space. If you can't think of a suitable sentence, write this: The embargo—a way to put the country to sleep.

James Madison, who followed Jefferson as President, also tried to keep the country from going to war over freedom of the seas. At times it seemed that the United States should go to war against both England and France. However, the British were much harder on the Americans than the French were. The British actually fired upon U.S. battleships. They often impressed, or forced, sailors from American ships to work in the British navy. Furthermore, Indians from Canada were still raiding American settlements in the Northwest. The British who controlled Canada received much of the blame for the raids.

Some American congressmen known as War Hawks pressed hard for war. They said that war with great Britain would give the United States a good reason to invade Canada and capture it. In this way Indian raids would be stopped and Canada would provide cheap land for American settlers. Madison asked Congress to decide the question of war with England. In June, 1812, they voted *Yes*. The fighting that took place during the next three years is known as the War of 1812.

4. *Circle the two sentences that tell how the British navy acted against United States ships and men.*

5. *Underline the two sentences that tell why the War Hawks wanted war with Britain.*



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Fighting the War on Land

Just as the War Hawks desired, an invasion of Canada was planned and carried out. In 1812 American forces attacked British forts at Detroit and Niagara. A third force advanced on Montreal. The Americans were beaten back by British soldiers, the Canadians, and their Indian allies. The Canadians were defending their own country, and they fiercely resisted the advance of the Americans. The Indians saw the war as a way to keep American settlers from moving into Indian territory.

6. On the map label Detroit at ①, Niagara at ②, and Montreal at ③.
7. Why did Indians support the Canadians in the war? _____

American forces made a second attempt to invade Canada in 1813. The American forces won some important battles. Toronto, the city where the Canadian government met, was taken but not held. In spite of all the United States' efforts, the end of the year saw Canada still in the hands of the Canadians.

8. Label Toronto at ④ on the map.

In 1814 the British invaded the United States. After years of fighting in Europe, they had finally defeated the French. Now they could devote their full energies to the war with the United States. First, they planned to separate New England from the rest of the country, as they had tried to do in the Revolutionary War. But the result was the same—failure. An American fleet on Lake Champlain, commanded by Captain Thomas McDonough, destroyed the British fleet as it tried to sail south on the lake.

9. Label Lake Champlain at ⑤ on the map.

The second part of the British plan called for attacks on American cities and villages

along the coast. These places could offer little resistance to the British. So, the British were quite successful. Even Washington, the capital of the United States, was captured. President Madison and his wife, Dolley, were forced to flee from the city. The British burned the White House and some other public buildings in revenge for the United States' capture and burning of Toronto, Canada.

10. Label Washington at ⑥ on the map.

Circle the sentence that tells why the British burned the White House and other buildings in Washington.

The third part of the British plan was to capture New Orleans. This would help them to control the Mississippi River. The British sent about 7500 well-trained and experienced troops to New Orleans. General Andrew Jackson and about 5000 untrained troops met the British attack. The battle which was fought on January 8, 1815, was a terrible defeat for the British. About two thousand of the British soldiers were killed or wounded. The Americans lost no more than 75 troops. At the time of the battle, neither Jackson nor the British knew that a peace treaty had already been signed between the United States and Great Britain.



1.03: The War of 1812

