

# THE WAR OF 1812

The War of 1812 was a war between England and the United States. It began on June 18, 1812. Though the war actually lasted until February of 1815, most of the war was fought in 1812. The War of 1812 is sometimes referred to as the Second War of Independence.

There were several reasons that caused the War of 1812. The British wanted to restrict the United States from trading with France. The British were at war with France. In order to prevent trade with the British forced the United States to go to England and pay a tax before being able to trade with other countries. Also, the British Navy would capture U.S. trade ships and force the sailors to join the British Navy. They did this because the British wanted more ships so they could fight against France. The British Navy was made up of the Royal Navy. Also, the British wanted to restrict the colonies from expanding westward.

At the time of the war, the president of the United States was James Madison. James Madison was the fourth president of the United States. The First Lady was his wife, Dolly Madison. She became famous during the War of 1812 for rescuing the portrait of George Washington.

Two military leaders for the U.S. during the War of 1812 were James Madison and Andrew Jackson. Both of these men would later become presidents.

The British were led by Prince George IV and Prime Minister Robert Jenkinson. Notably, a Native American named Tecumseh fought for the British. Native Americans aligned with the British because further expansion west could destroy the Native American way of life, and it later did.

On June 18th, 1812, the United States declared war on the United Kingdom. The United States attacked Canada, which was a British colony. The attack did not go as planned because the American troops were inexperienced, and they lost easily. The British even managed to capture the U.S. city of Detroit.

## WORDS TO KNOW

- Restrict - to put a limit on, keep under control
- Expansion - the action of becoming larger
- Aligned - come together in agreement

## SYMBOLS

Underline the "Words to Know" found in the passage. (see bottom)

? Something you have a question about

! Something that surprised you

♡ Your favorite fact

## COLOR

[YELLOW]

Who fought in the War of 1812?

[GREEN]

Why did the British Navy capture U.S. trade ships?

[BLUE]

Why did Tecumseh side with the British?



# RESULTS OF THE WAR

The War of 1812 ended in 1815 with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent. On December 17th, 1814, both sides came together in Ghent, Belgium to sign the treaty. The British agreed to give up the land that they had taken from the other side.

Although the treaty was signed in December of 1814, it took time for people to know that the war was over. Communication back then was very slow. In fact, the United States did not know for a month that the war was over. They continued fighting, and the Battle of New Orleans, which the United States won, actually took place after the war had officially ended.

Another battle that took place during that time was the Second Battle of Fort Bowyer. The British won that battle.

The treaty was finally put into effect on February 16th, 1815, when the United States Senate voted to accept the treaty. The vote was unanimous.

One thing that the Treaty of Ghent caused was peace between the United States and England. Since then, for over two hundred years, the United States and England have been close allies. There have been very few conflicts between the two countries.

Another result of the war was that it gave the United States confidence. While the war had ended in a stalemate, they had been able to fend off an attack from the most powerful military in the world. Other nations noticed, and the U.S. was seen as a true world power.

A final effect of the war was both positive and negative. The United States was able to expand westward, and it did for much of the first part of the 19th century. They were able to build a strong nation. They found resources and claimed land. However, this came at a cost. The Native Americans' way of life was severely disrupted. One of the people who caused it to be disrupted the most was the military leader of the War of 1812, Andrew Jackson.

## WORDS TO KNOW

Stalemate - further action seems impossible  
Unanimous - 100% agreement  
Allies - join together

## SYMBOLS

Underline the "Words to Know" found in the passage. (see bottom)

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## COLOR

**YELLOW** → Why was the US seen as a true world power?

**GREEN** → Who caused the most disruption to the Native Americans?

**BLACK** → Who voted unanimously?

# THE USS CONSTITUTION

## CHECK THE CORRECT ANSWER

Most of the war was fought in the \_\_\_\_\_ Ocean.

- Atlantic       Pacific       Indian

How many ships did Congress order to be built?

- 6       8       10

The first battle for the USS Constitution was off the coast of \_\_\_\_\_.

- Montreal       Quebec       Nova Scotia

## TRUE OR FALSE

The U.S. Navy was able to break away from the Royal Navy by disappearing into the storm.

TRUE      FALSE

In July of 1812, the USS Constitution was involved in a scary situation. It was being chased by the Royal Navy.

TRUE      FALSE

## Fill in the blank

The United States entered war with England in 1812. The right to trade and westward \_\_\_\_\_.

Sedging was a technique where the anchor was dropped at a distance, and then the crew would pull the ship to the \_\_\_\_\_.

## WORD SEARCH

X N B S E R J F B R I T I S H C I D P      BRITISH  
 B V H G Q A X V S L F T D R N S A G C Z      GIGANTE  
 F U E F H Z H A L A E J U X E V V O N      NAVY  
 P R I D E V F K W N D L H H T C I V N      SIGHT  
 J T M D V G P F Q D Y R B E A U N Y      CONGRESS  
 Q H R A T L A N T I C H W V G Q G V M      ATLANTIC  
 L S O C K O A H E Z F C U H I Q C A E Z      ANCHOR  
 Z I T E E X P A N S I O N L R B L N S Y      EXPANSION  
 S R S Z F L X A E O O N I P F A K R S D      PRIDE  
 V D L Z G S V R F A T X K H M E I H X I