

## **Battle of New Orleans Perspectives**

### **Lesson #2 of the War of 1812 Perspectives Module**

#### **ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS**

How did people respond to the Battle of New Orleans? What are some of the unique stories and perspectives of people affected by the War of 1812?

#### **OVERVIEW**

After Napoleon's defeat in the spring of 1814, the British were free to concentrate on their war in America. With a strategic focus on coastal regions and American trade and transportation, the British army attacked and burned Washington in August 1814. Although unable to take Baltimore the following month, the British nonetheless moved ahead with a plan to attack New Orleans.

Apprised of a possible invasion on the Gulf Coast, the commander of the U.S. Seventh Military District, Andrew Jackson, left Mobile, Alabama, for New Orleans on November 22. Recently promoted to Major General in the Regular Army for his successful campaign against the Creek Indians, Jackson reached the city on December 1 and began the task of assembling an army, which eventually consisted of Tennessee and Kentucky frontiersmen, Louisiana militia, New Orleans businessmen, Free Men of Color, Choctaw Indians, smuggler Jean Lafitte and his privateers, sailors, marines, and United States troops.

On January 8, 1815, Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson's hastily assembled army won the day against a battle-hardened and numerically superior British force. The British gambled and lost on a forward attack against American forces, dug into a fortified mud and cotton bale earthworks on the east bank of the Mississippi at Chalmette Plantation. British casualties far outnumbered those of the Americans. The resounding American victory at the Battle of New Orleans soon became a symbol of American democracy triumphing over the old European ideas of aristocracy and entitlement. Jackson's triumph set him on a road that ended in the White House thirteen years later. The battle was the last major armed engagement between the United States and Britain.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this lesson, the students will be able to:

1. Knowledge
  - Briefly explain the Battle of New Orleans and its outcomes.
2. Comprehension/Application/Analysis
  - Examine multiple primary sources to gain an appreciate for the American and British perspectives and experiences during and after the Battle of New Orleans.
3. Evaluation
  - Discuss findings from primary sources and consider how the Battle of New Orleans affected the soldiers and civilian population.

## ACTIVITIES

1. Use the [Lesson's PowerPoint](#) to explore the context and history, laying foundational knowledge the War of 1812 and the Battle of New Orleans.
2. [The primary sources for this perspectives lesson plan](#) offer multiple perspectives on the battle and its outcomes for individuals and the city of New Orleans; students can be divided into groups to read and fill out the worksheet.

Battle of New Orleans	<i>"To Describe Those Lines"</i>
Battle of New Orleans	<i>"Pakenham Gave the Word to Advance"</i>
After the Battle	<i>"In Praise of the Firmness and Deliberation"</i>
After the Battle	<i>"Bravely Facing the Dangers of War"</i>
After the Battle	<i>"They threw themselves on his protection"</i>
After the Battle	<i>"Address of General Jackson to the Soldiers and Citizens at New Orleans"</i>
After the Battle	<i>A Tribute to defenders of New Orleans</i>

3. Distribute the [lesson's worksheet](#).
4. Students will read a primary source and fill out the worksheet which will guide them through exploring the document.
5. Encourage a class discussion and draw group conclusions, answering the questions:
  - How did people respond to the Battle of New Orleans?
  - What are some of the unique stories and perspectives of people affected by the War of 1812 in New Orleans?

## STANDARDS

Please visit the [Lesson Plan Page](#) and select the "Common Core and NCSS Standards for Social Studies" to view the details.

## RESOURCES

[Visit the Lesson Plan Page](#) to find all resources in one convenient place. You'll find everything mentioned or linked in this Lesson Plan along with additional videos, articles, primary sources, and biographies.

### Quick Links

- [PowerPoint](#)
- [Primary Source Worksheet](#)

**OPTIONAL HOMEWORK/ASSESSMENT/ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

***Option 1: Biography Study***

Have the students selected a historical person connected to the Battle of New Orleans. (There are six biography articles already prepared on [the Lesson Plan Page](#)). The students will read the biography and make notes for the following topics. Students can write a short essay, share their findings verbally, or incorporate their findings into a larger class project that might include art, costumes, or props.

***Key Life Events:***

Identify and describe three key events or milestones in the life of the individual. How did these events shape or influence their character, achievements, or contributions?

***Role in the Chesapeake Campaign***

What did this person do during the Battle of New Orleans? Does this seem to be a significant moment in this person's life?

***Legacy and Impact:***

Reflect on the individual's lasting legacy and impact on society. What are the person's major contributions or accomplishments? Do you think these accomplishments were good? How have their actions influenced the course of history or inspired others?

***Option 2: New Orleans Virtual Field Trip***

Students can watch the [New Orleans Virtual Field Trip](#), which tours historic New Orleans and Chalmette Battlefield in Louisiana. Students can then write a short essay about a place of interest that they saw in the video. For additional resources related to the New Orleans Virtual Field Trip, including more information about featured sites, please visit [this resource hub/landing page](#).