

Battles of the War of 1812
Lesson #2 of the War of 1812 Module

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What were some of the significant battles of the War of 1812?

OVERVIEW

Battles were fought on land and sea during the War of 1812. Early in the conflict, United States forces invaded British-held Canada and also clashed with Native Americans in Tecumseh's Confederacy. United States ships on Lake Erie and at sea scored some victories that boosted American morale. Dramatic moments occurred in 1814 during the Chesapeake Campaign with a British army capturing the United States capital and then halted at Fort McHenry (Baltimore, Maryland). The last battle of the war was an American victory at New Orleans in 1815, technically fought after the Treaty of Ghent had been signed, but the news had not yet reached North America.

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Knowledge
 - Name and explain the outcomes of some of the battles of the War of 1812.
2. Comprehension/Application/Analysis
 - Examine a secondary and primary source about a War of 1812 battle and analyze findings.
3. Evaluation
 - Evaluate and discuss some of the battles during the War of 1812 and how they impacted the Americans, British, or Native Americans and their causes.

ACTIVITIES

1. Use the [Lesson's PowerPoint](#) to explore the context and history; the PowerPoint introduces Essential Questions and lays foundational knowledge about the battles.
2. Let students decide which battle to study. This could be in a group, as a class, or individually. It can be done as written work sheets or as verbal discussion. (If the students are interested in a different battle not included on the list, there are additional resources available in the PowerPoint notes or on the American Battlefield Trust website: www.battlefields.org)
3. Distribute the [primary source worksheet](#).
4. Watch one of or all of these short battle videos and have the students fill out Part 1 of their worksheet.
 - a. [USS Constitution's Battles](#)
 - b. [Battle of Bladensburg/Burning of Washington](#)
 - c. [Battle of Fort McHenry](#)
 - d. [Battle of New Orleans](#)

5. Have the students read the primary source related to their chosen battle and fill out Part 2 of their worksheet. 7 selected primary sources are available under the “Primary Source” section of this lesson plan page.
6. Finally, the students will fill out Part 3 of their worksheet to compare the Secondary Source (video) and the Primary Source and draw their conclusions.

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 Summary Worksheet](#)
- [USS Constitution’s Battles \(Video\)](#)
- [Battle of Bladensburg/Burning of Washington \(Video\)](#)
- [Battle of Fort McHenry \(Video\)](#)
- [Battle of New Orleans \(Video\)](#)

OPTIONAL HOMEWORK/ASSESSMENT/ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Option 1: Biographies

Have the students select a historical person connected to the War of 1812. (There are 7 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?

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: War of 1812 Artifacts

Have students watch this video: [Artifacts from Fort McHenry](#) Students can note WHAT the object is? HOW it was used? WHERE it was used? WHO used it? WHY is it important?