

The Jefferson Era

Lesson 4 The War of 1812

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why does conflict develop?

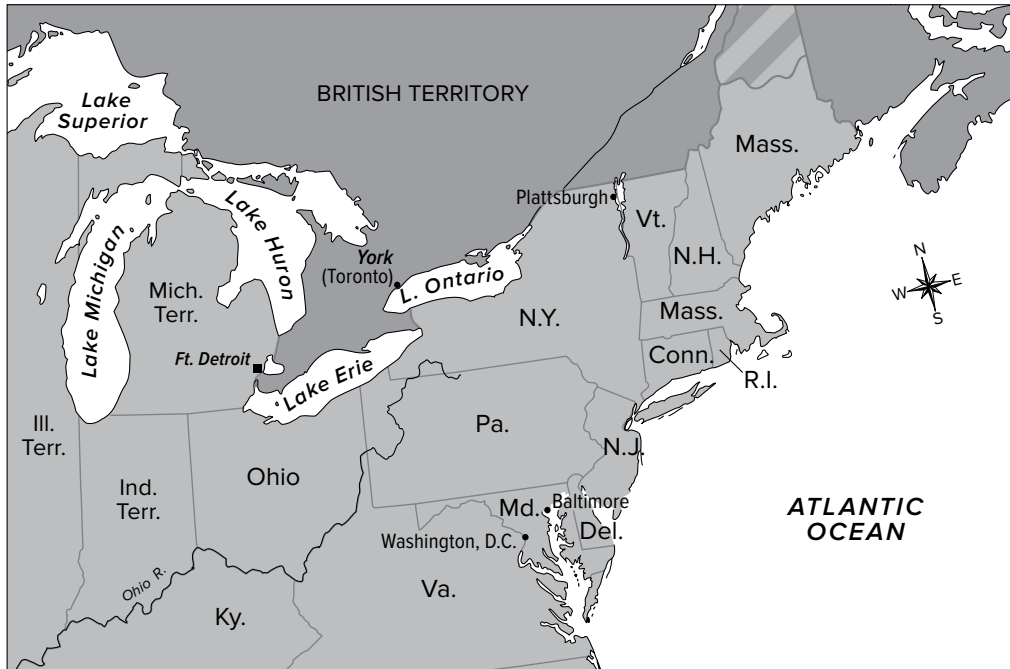
GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *In what ways was the United States unprepared for war with Britain?*
2. *Why were Americans instilled with national pride after the battle of New Orleans?*

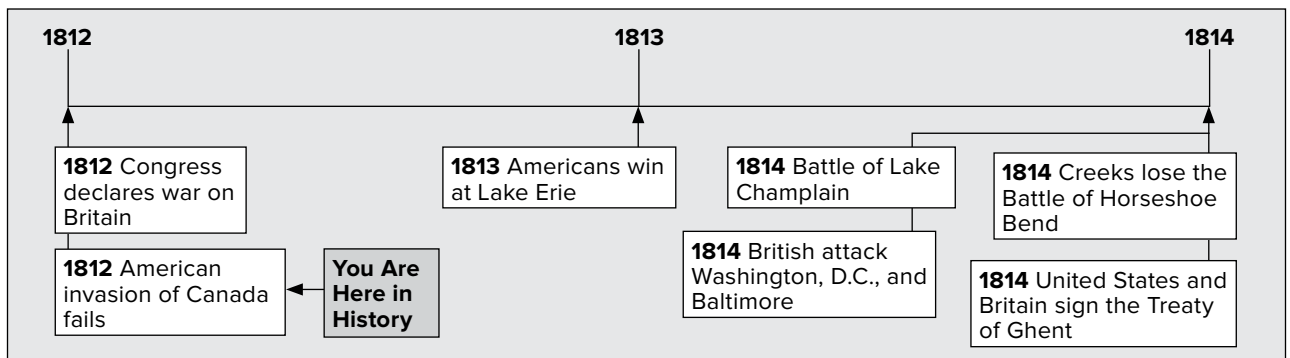
Term to Know

frigate fast, medium-sized warship

Where in the world?



When did it happen?



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Lesson 4 The War of 1812, *Continued*

Defeats and Victories

The War Hawks thought the United States would defeat Britain quickly, but America was not ready for war.

Reasons the United States Was Unprepared for War	
Troops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fewer than 12,000 soldiers • 50,000–100,000 poorly trained state militia soldiers
Leaders	experienced leaders were too old to fight
Public opinion	some states opposed the war
Enemy strength	Americans misjudged the strength of Britain and Native Americans.

The war began in July 1812. It began with two failures:

- General William Hull led the American army from Detroit to Canada. They met Tecumseh and his forces. Hull surrendered Detroit.
- General William Henry Harrison also tried to invade Canada. He did not succeed either.

Harrison said the United States would not succeed in the north while the British controlled Lake Erie.

The navy was stronger than the army. The United States had three of the fastest **frigates**—warships—in the world. One of them destroyed two British ships early in the war. U.S. privateers—armed private ships—captured many British ships.

Oliver Hazard Perry led a fleet of American ships to get control of Lake Erie. On September 10, 1813, his ships destroyed the British fleet. Americans controlled Lake Erie.

The British and Native Americans tried to pull back from the Detroit area. Harrison and his troops cut them off. They fought the Battle of the Thames. The Americans also attacked York, in Canada, and burned several government buildings. The British still held control of Canada, but the United States had won several victories.

Tecumseh was killed in the Battle of the Thames. Before the battle, he had asked the Creeks in the Mississippi Territory to join his confederation. After he died, the confederation never formed, and the Native American alliance with the British ended.



Mark the Text

1. Underline the definition of *frigate*.



Identifying

2. What was one strength of the United States going into the war?



Drawing Conclusions

3. Why was the success at Lake Erie so important?



Reading Check

4. Was the United States prepared for war? Why?

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Explaining

5. Why were the British able to send more troops to fight the United States in 1814?



Contrasting

6. What happened when the British attacked Washington, D.C.?

How was the battle in Baltimore different?



Sequencing

7. Number these events to show the order in which they happened:

Americans win Battle of New Orleans.

British defeat France.

British lose Battle of Lake Champlain.

U.S. and Britain sign Treaty of Ghent.

British attack Washington, D. C.

In March 1814, Andrew Jackson attacked the Creeks. He and his forces killed more than 550 Creek people in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. After this defeat, the Creeks gave up most of their land.

The British Offensive

When the War of 1812 started, the British were still at war with France. In 1814, they won that war. This made it possible for them to send more troops to fight in America.

In August 1814, the British arrived in Washington, D.C. They quickly defeated the American militia. They burned and wrecked much of the city. Americans were surprised when the British did not try to hold the city.

Instead they left Washington, D.C., and headed to Baltimore. They attacked Baltimore in September 1814. Baltimore was ready. Fort McHenry in Baltimore harbor helped defend the city and kept the British out.

Francis Scott Key watched the bombs exploding over Fort McHenry on September 13. The next morning he saw the American flag still flying over the fort. It inspired him to write the poem "The Star-Spangled Banner." In 1931, this became the national anthem.

In the meantime, General Prevost was leading 10,000 British troops from Canada into New York. He wanted to capture Plattsburgh, an important city on Lake Champlain. In September 1814, an American naval force defeated the British fleet on Lake Champlain. Afraid the Americans would surround his troops, Prevost turned them around and went back to Canada.

After the Battle of Lake Champlain, the British decided to stop fighting. The war cost too much, and there was little to gain from it.

In December 1814, representatives from the United States and Britain signed a peace treaty in Ghent, Belgium. The Treaty of Ghent ended the war, but it did not:

- change borders.
- end impressment of sailors.
- mention neutral rights.

On January 8, 1815, before people in the United States knew about the treaty, British troops moved to attack New Orleans. Andrew Jackson and his troops were ready for them. The Americans hid behind cotton bales. The bales protected them from bullets. The unprotected redcoats were easy targets. Hundreds of British soldiers died.

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The Battle of New Orleans was a clear victory for the Americans. Andrew Jackson became a famous hero. His fame helped him become president in the election of 1828.

Federalists in New England were against the war from the start. They met in Hartford in December 1814. A few wanted to secede. Most wanted to stay in the United States. They made a list of changes they wanted made to the Constitution.

Pride in America grew with the success in the war. After the war, many people thought the Federalist complaints were unpatriotic. They lost respect for the Federalists, and the party grew weaker.

As the Federalists grew weaker, the War Hawks grew stronger. The War Hawks took control of the Republican Party. They wanted five things:

- trade
- more settlement in the West
- fast growth of the economy
- a strong national government
- a strong army and navy

After the war of 1812, Americans had great pride in their country. Other countries had more respect for the United States, too.

////////// Glue Foldable here //////////

Check for Understanding

List four ways the United States was unprepared for war in 1812.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

What happened to the Federalists and the Republicans after the War of 1812?



Explaining

8. What were the results of the Battle of New Orleans?



Reading Check

9. List three things that happened as a result of the War of 1812.



10. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write the title *War of 1812* on the anchor tab. Label the tabs *Federalists* and *Republicans*. Recall and list ways the War of 1812 affected each group. Use the Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.