

Name: _____

Introduction to the War of 1812

On July 17, 1812, **President James Madison** declared war on Britain. With an army of only 7,000 poorly trained men and a navy of just 16 ships, America was not well prepared. America's first move was to attempt take control of Canada, which was at the time under British rule. While the Americans failed to take control of Canada, American naval victories fought on **Lake Erie** and **Lake Champlain** in the north stopped the British from invading America from Canada.

In the South, a British squadron landed on **Cumberland Island** after successfully attacking the town of St. Marys, Georgia on January 25, 1814. The British leader, **Admiral George Cockburn** declared the island to be "occupied territory." He said any enslaved Africans on the island were free. Slaves seeking freedom started flocking to the island from all over the coastline. The response was so great that a group of sixty-six slaves paddled twenty-three miles in a wooden canoe to reach the island. In all, 1,483 enslaved Africans joined the British squadron on Cumberland Island.

In August of 1814, the British landed in the Chesapeake Bay area with the goal of seizing Washington D.C. As the British army of approximately 4,000 approached America's capitol, the majority of Washington residents fled the sweltering city. Even though the American army, with President James Madison in attendance, tried to defeat the British in a battle at Bladensburg a few miles from the city, they were unsuccessful. A messenger was dispatched to the White House to warn First Lady Dolly Madison of the impending arrival of the British. She and her staff fled by carriage across the Potomac - taking with her a full-length portrait of George Washington that had been torn from a White House wall.

That evening, the British army reached Capitol Hill and began to destroy all public buildings in the city, including the **Capitol Building** and the **White House**. They also set fire to most of the Virginia countryside. The British then moved north to Baltimore, but were finally stopped when they reached **Baltimore Harbor**. They were unable to take **Fort McHenry**, and upon suffering heavy losses they retreated.

The American victory in Baltimore Harbor was witnessed by **Francis Scott Key**, a young poet-lawyer who had been sent aboard a British warship anchored in the Chesapeake Bay to negotiate an American prisoner's release. While being held on the boat, Francis Scott Key witnessed the battle, and seeing his country's flag still flying over the Fort the next morning, he was inspired to write a poem, the **Star-Spangled Banner**.

As the war continued, both the Americans and the British were running low on resources. In December 1814, American negotiators met with British diplomats in Belgium and signed the **Treaty of Ghent** which declared peace. Neither the Americans nor the British won the War of 1812, yet Americans showed the world that their young republic could succeed.

Answer the following on notebook paper:

1. What were the causes of the War of 1812?
2. Do you agree with Madison's decision to declare war on Britain? Why or why not?
3. Describe the American army in 1812.
4. What prevented the British from invading America from Canada?
5. In what way did some enslaved people benefit from the War of 1812?
6. What happened to the White House in August of 1814?
7. What inspired Francis Scott Key to write what became our national anthem, *The Star Spangled Banner*?
8. How did the War of 1812 end?

Name _____

Period _____

War of 1812

Causes and Effects

1. What were the four main causes of the War of 1812?
2. What happened on June 22, 1807?
3. What was the Embargo Act of 1807?
4. What was the Non-Intercourse Act?
5. Who were the two men (called War Hawks) who pressured the US president into declaring war?
6. Who was the US president that declared war on Britain in 1812?
7. What did Napoleon do that prompted the US to declare war on Britain and not France?
8. Give two reasons why the War of 1812 started off poorly for US forces?
9. What happened on December 14, 1814? (Be specific)
10. What is the significance of the timing of the Battle of New Orleans in relation to the Treaty of Ghent?
11. What were three effects of the War of 1812?

James Madison

12. In what year did James Madison become the 4th president of the US?
13. What was the name of James Madison's wife?

William Henry Harrison (Governor of the Indiana Territory)

14. In what epic battle in Indiana did Harrison defeat the Native Americans?
15. Harrison eventually became the 9th president of the US? What was significant about his presidency?

Tecumseh

16. Who was Tecumseh?
17. During which battle was Tecumseh killed and what was the result of his death?

Francis Scott Key

18. What did Francis Scott Key write and what inspired him to write it?

Andrew Jackson

19. In which battle did Jackson become a national hero?
20. What position in government was Jackson elected to in 1828?

Now use the War of 1812 Interactive map to fill in the chart and the battles on the map on the back