

The War of 1812: Who Won the War?

Lesson Overview

Students will learn about the causes, course and consequences of the War of 1812. The causes section will help students understand the geographical location and importance of Upper Canada to the Americans and British, the spark which led to the declaration of war and the role of the First Nations before the war. The course section will focus on the stories of key individuals (British, American, First Nations) and the lack of any decisive military victory. The consequences section will show how very little changed for all sides as is evident in the peace treaty in Ghent in 1814.

Grade Level

Grade 9

Time Required

This lesson can be completed in two classes (100-120 minutes).

Curriculum Connection (Province/Territory and course)

British Columbia – Social Studies 9

Additional Resources, Materials and Equipment Required

- Student Activity Sheet (attached)
- List of References (primary and secondary sources) (attached)
- Access to a digital projector, computers and the internet (if students do not have access to the internet, the teacher can print resources for them using the list of references provided)

Web Sites

Canadian Atlas Online War of 1812 theme

<http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas>

Rick Mercer Report on the War of 1812

http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/war_of_1812/videos/

Parks Canada – Fort George National Historic Site

<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/on/fortgeorge/edu.aspx>

Historica Dominion Institute – Historica Minutes

<http://www.historica.ca/minutes/minute.do?id=10118>

War of 1812 – People and Stories

<http://www.galafilm.com/1812/e/people/prophet.html>

The Canadian Encyclopedia

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com>

Main Objective

To analyse information about how the war developed, was fought through the eyes of some of the participants and concluded.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Use and apply critical thinking skills;
- Analyse historic and geographic information;
- Make inferences to draw their own conclusions as to how history shapes Canada's identity and culture today.

Lesson 1	Teacher Activity	Student Activity
Introduction	<p>Introduce the topic of the War of 1812.</p> <p>Does anyone have prior knowledge of this war?</p> <p>Watch the video clip of the <i>Rick Mercer Report on the War of 1812</i>.</p> <p>Pose two key related questions:</p> <p>What makes people want to fight? What makes countries want to enter a war?</p> <p>Distribute the <i>Student Activity Sheet</i> and ask students to write down the general causes of war in the first section of the sheet. Explain that this activity will provide the framework for understanding the War of 1812 by studying the causes, course and consequences.</p>	<p>Possible responses...</p> <p>Respond in pairs, then as a class.</p> <p>As a class, write down the causes of war on the <i>Student Activity Sheet</i>.</p>
Lesson Development	<p><u>Causes of the War of 1812</u></p> <p>Provide some background information on the Napoleonic Wars. Send students to the <i>Canadian Atlas Online War of 1812</i> theme to find the causes of the War of 1812.</p> <p>Ask students to look for three causes, fill in their <i>Student Activity Sheet</i> and see how similar the "general" causes of war are to the War of 1812 causes.</p> <p>(Approx. 20 minutes)</p> <p><u>Course of the War of 1812</u></p> <p>Explain that to fully understand what happened in a past event, students need to be like historical detectives and sift through evidence to find important clues and identify patterns.</p> <p>They will be required to operate in small groups to determine the significance of a variety of individuals (or battles) in the war. Explain the meaning of "notable" (famous/distinguished) and "significance" (meaning/importance) for the students.</p>	<p>Visit the <i>Canadian Atlas Online War of 1812</i> theme and look for three causes.</p> <p>Write the three causes of the War of 1812 on the <i>Student Activity Sheet</i>. Discuss as a class how close they are to the "general" causes of war.</p> <p>Form a group.</p>

	<p>Distribute the <i>List of References</i> and ask each group to choose and research one British individual, one First Nations individual, one American individual and one key battle from the War of 1812.</p> <p>Ask students to write down the “notable actions” and “significance” for each of their choices in the <i>Student Activity Sheet</i>.</p> <p>(approx. 30 minutes)</p>	<p>Use the <i>List of References</i> (primary and secondary sources) to find the “notable actions” and the “significance” of the individuals and battles to the war. Write findings in the Student Activity Sheet.</p>
Conclusion	<p>Discuss responses from students at the end of the lesson. Ask questions like:</p> <p>What characteristics have been seen?</p> <p>What are some of the notable actions so far?</p> <p>How might these actions affect the significance of the war?</p> <p>Review the causes of the War of 1812 and the course of the war so far.</p> <p>Conclude the lesson with the question: Who would most likely win the War?</p>	<p>Participate in the discussion.</p>

Lesson 2	Teacher Activity	Student Activity
Introduction	<p>Review material from the last lesson.</p> <p>Consider the following questions:</p> <p>Are there common threads between individuals’ actions?</p> <p>Is there a pattern here during the course of the war?</p> <p>Who is winning the war? How can we tell?</p> <p>(approx. 10 minutes)</p>	<p>Participate in the class discussion.</p>
Lesson Development	<p><u>Consequences of the War of 1812</u></p> <p>Topic question: Who won the War of 1812 and why?</p> <p>Send students to the <i>Canadian Atlas Online War of 1812</i> theme (Overview – Who Won or Lost the War of 1812?). Examine the findings from different perspectives.</p>	

	Ask students to complete the <i>Student Activity sheet</i> section on the <i>Consequences of the War of 1812</i> , including the section on the <i>Effects of the War of 1812</i> .	Complete the <i>Consequences of the War of 1812</i> section, including the section on the <i>Effects of the War of 1812</i> .
Conclusion	Ask students to write a final summary paragraph that examines the cause, course and consequences of the War of 1812.	Write and submit the summary paragraph.

Assessment of Student Learning

The written paragraph can be assessed based on knowledge of historical details, critical thinking skills, communication and the application of historical connections.

Further Reading/ Websites

- *Canadian Geographic War of 1812* poster-map
- War of 1812 interactive map & timeline
<http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/war1812>
- Berton, Pierre. *The Invasion of Canada* (1980)
- Hitsman, J.Mackay. *The Incredible War of 1812. A Military History* (updated by Donald E.Graves, 1999)
- Stanley, George F. *The War of 1812: Land Operations*. Toronto: MacMillan of Canada, 1983. Detailed account of all the campaigns in Canada during the War of 1812.
- Sugden, John. *Tecumseh: A Life*. Detroit: Owl Press, 1999. The story of Tecumseh, his half brother the Prophet and the attempts to forge a First Nations resistance to the United States.
- Archives of Ontario – War of 1812 - Sources
<http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/on-line-exhibits/1812/sources.aspx>
- War of 1812: From Colony to Country – Library and Archives Canada
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/military/025002-2000-e.html>

Link to Canadian National Standards for Geography

Essential Element #6: The Uses of Geography

- Influence of geographical features on the evolution of significant historic events and movements

Geographic Skill #4: Analyzing geographic information

- Use the processes of analysis, synthesis, evaluation and explanation to interpret geographic information from a variety of sources.

War of 1812

Student Activity Sheet

Name: _____

1) Causes of the War of 1812

These will be the reasons why the war started.

Causes of War (in general)	1) 2) 3)
Causes of the War of 1812	1) 2) 3)

2) Course of the War of 1812

This will be what happened during the war, and include the actions of key individuals and important battles/raids, etc.

	Notable actions	Significance for the War
Name of British individual _____ _____ _____ _____		
Name of First Nations individual _____ _____ _____ _____		
Name of American individual _____ _____ _____ _____		
Name of key battle _____ _____ _____ _____		

3) Consequences of the War of 1812

These will be the effects of the war after the fighting has finished, and especially after the peace treaty has been signed.

Who won the war?

Effects of the War of 1812	For the British	1) 2)
	For the First Nations	1) 2)
	For the Americans	1) 2) 3) 4)

List of References

Major General Sir Isaac Brock (British)

Secondary Source

<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/on/fortgeorge/edu/edua3.aspx>

Primary Source

"Were it not for the death of Gen. Brock & McDonell our victory would have been glorious and really a matter of triumph, but losing in one man, not only the President of the Province but our ablest General, is an irreparable loss, under the existing circumstances of affairs at a time when his moderation & impartiality had united all parties ..."

Letter from Thomas G. Ridout (Brown's Point) to his brother Samuel Ridout, October 21, 1812 Thomas Ridout

Reference Code: F 43, box MU 2390

Archives of Ontario

Extract from an original letter

Laura Secord (British, born in America)

Secondary Source

Historica Minutes: <http://www.histori.ca/minutes/minute.do?id=10118>

Major General Henry Dearborn (American)

Secondary Source

<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/on/fortgeorge/edu/edua3.aspx#dearborn>

Sir George Prevost (British Governor General)

Secondary Source

<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/on/fortgeorge/edu/edua3.aspx#prevost>

Primary Source

This quote in 1814 shows the Duke of Wellington's distrust in Sir George Prevost.

"It is very obvious to me that you must remove Sir George Prevost. I see he has gone to war about trifles with the general officers I sent him, which are certainly the best of their rank in the army; and his subsequent failure and distresses will be aggravated by that circumstance; and will probably with the usual fairness of the public be attributed to it." Hitsman, J. Mackay (updated by Donald E. Graves), *The Incredible War of 1812*, Robin Brass Studio, Toronto, 1999. p.267

Major General Roger Hale Sheaffe (British)

Secondary Source

<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/on/fortgeorge/edu/edua3.aspx#sheaffe>

Tecumseh (First Nations)

Secondary Source

<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/on/fortgeorge/edu/edua3.aspx#tecumseh>

Primary Source

Father, listen!—The Americans have not yet defeated us by land—neither are we sure that they have done so by water— we therefore wish to remain here, and fight our enemy, should they make their appearance... Father!—You have got the arms and the ammunition which our great father [the King of England] sent for his red children. If you have an idea of going away, give them to us. Our lives are in the hands of the Great Spirit. We are determined to defend our lands, and if it be his will, we wish to leave our bones upon them

This speech was repeatedly reported by Benjamin Bussey Thatcher in his works about the North-East Indians; see, *Indian Biography, or An historical account of those individuals who have been distinguished among the North American natives as orators, warriors, statesmen and other remarkable characters*, New York, J. & J. Harper, 1832, vol. II, p. 237

Tenskwatawa - The Prophet (First Nations)

Secondary Source

<http://www.galafilm.com/1812/e/people/prophet.html>

William Henry Harrison (American)

Secondary Source

<http://www.galafilm.com/1812/e/people/harrison.html>

Battle of Queenston Heights

Secondary Source

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1ARTA0006615>

Primary Source

"The indians being most active in climbing up, first came in contact with the enemy and drove them before them for some distance. The Americans however soon rallied...Our troops coming up at the same time opened so good a fire upon the enemy threat they were again obliged to retire. They were immediately pursued by the indians and our Force shouting and hallowing as loud as they could. The Americans now gave way on all sides – many of them jumped off the precipice and many attempted to swim across the River who were drowned or killed by our shot. A white flag was immediately hoisted by the Americans in the battery and they surrendered prisoners of war. We have taken one thousand prisoners - besides killed and wounded..." Letter from Archibald McLean to unknown, October 15, 1812
Ferdinand Brock Tupper, Reference Code: F 1081, box MU 3027 Archives of Ontario. Extract from an original letter.

The Battle of Moraviantown

Secondary Source

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1ARTA0005431>

Battle of Lundy's Lane

Secondary Source

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1ARTA0004809>