

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment and the War of 1812

Lesson Overview

Students will examine the role played by the Royal Newfoundland Regiment (RNR) (known earlier as the Royal Newfoundland Regiment of Fencible Infantry) in the War of 1812. Students will study geographical locations of battle sites where the RNR was involved during this period. After an examination of the lifestyle of these 19th century soldiers, students will draw conclusions about why men would leave their homeland to fight. Knowledge about battle engagements and the daily life of these men should reinforce empathy and allow comparisons with more recent soldiers of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

Grade Level

Middle School (Grades 7 to 9)

Time Required

Two sixty minute classes

Curriculum Connection(Province/Territory and course)

Atlantic Provinces Curriculum for Social Studies: Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training (CAMET): Newfoundland and Labrador

Additional Resources, Materials and Equipment Required

- Worksheet #1: Causes and Outcomes of the War of 1812 (attached)
- Worksheet #2: Historical Geography and the Royal Newfoundland Regiment in the War of 1812 (attached)
- Worksheet # 3: Then and Now (attached)
- Worksheet # 4: The Battle of Queenston Heights (attached)
- Questions for Assessment (attached)
- Coloured pencils
- Computers, LCD projector and internet access

Websites:

Canadian Atlas Online War of 1812 theme

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

The Signal Hill Tattoo

<http://rnchs.ca/tattoo/fi.html>

Bulger's Company Royal Newfoundland Regiment

<http://www.battleofgeorgianbay.huronian.com/rnrsite/>

Royal Newfoundland Regiment of Foot Button

<http://images.ourontario.ca/1812/72541/data?n=51>

National Defence - 1st Battalion, The Royal Newfoundland Regiment

http://www.army.forces.gc.ca/37cbg_hq/units-unites/1nl-eng.asp

War of 1812 – Royal Newfoundland Fencible Regiment – History and Uniform
http://www.warof1812.ca/r_newfld.htm

War of 1812: People and Stories
<http://www.galafilm.com/1812/e/people/index.html>

The Canadian Encyclopedia – Causes of the War of 1812
<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1ARTA0008442>

Main Objective

Students will identify geographical locations where the Royal Newfoundland Regiment played a significant role in the War of 1812. By examining these sites they should be able to develop empathy for the lifestyles and motives that that influenced these soldiers.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- access primary and secondary sources of information;
- conduct a map study to understand where the Royal Newfoundland Regiment played a military role in the War of 1812;
- understand how geographical factors play a role in battles;
- understand the motives of both sides in the War of 1812;
- understand the goals of the First Nations population in the War of 1812;
- make a comparison of 19th century soldiers to their 21st century counterparts;
- develop a degree of empathy for these soldiers.

The Lesson

The Lesson		
	Teacher Activity	Student Activity
Introduction	<p><u>Lesson Preparation:</u> Become familiar with the websites listed in the <i>Additional Resources</i> section of the lesson plan.</p> <p><u>Lesson:</u> Ask students, <i>"What causes different groups of people to become angry with each other?"</i>.</p> <p>Have students acknowledge that their answers can also be applied also to nations and that anger could lead to war.</p> <p>Ask: <i>"What might happen if there is a third group caught in the middle of a conflict and they are forced to take sides?"</i></p> <p>Explain that this was what happened to the First Nations population during the War of 1812.</p> <p>Discuss: <i>What are some factors that might make a person leave their homeland to fight in a far-off land?</i></p> <p><i>What are some of the geographical challenges that 19th century soldiers had to overcome in this war?</i></p> <p><i>Do you think modern-day soldiers face similar geographical challenges? How do they react to these challenges?</i></p>	<p>Discuss in class (as a whole or in small groups) the topic of anger and how it leads to conflicts. This information is the starting point for the lesson.</p> <p>Discuss factors that might make a third party fight in a conflict.</p> <p>Present opinions about factors that might make people leave home and fight in another country.</p> <p>Discuss the challenges faced by 19th century soldiers compared to 21st century soldiers.</p>
Lesson Development	<p>Provide an outline of the causes of the War of 1812 using a computer and LCD projector, the internet or printed copies. (Websites listed in the <i>Additional Resources</i> section of this lesson plan might help.)</p> <p>Distribute <i>Worksheet #1: Causes and Outcomes of the War of 1812</i>. Ask students to conduct research</p>	<p>View the information provided about the causes and outcomes of the War of 1812.</p> <p>Complete <i>Worksheet #1: Causes and Outcomes of the</i></p>

	<p>about the causes of the war from opposing sides and viewpoints using the websites provided in the <i>Additional Resources</i> section of the lesson plan.</p> <p>Distribute <i>Worksheet #2: Historical Geography and the Royal Newfoundland Regiment in the War of 1812</i> for completion. Review the instructions with students and assist with the maps as required.</p> <p>Discuss the influence of geography during the war after students have completed the mapping activity.</p> <p>Ask students: “<i>Who do you think had the more difficult task –soldiers of the 19th or 21st centuries? Why?</i>”</p> <p>Distribute <i>Worksheet # 3: Then and Now</i>. Ask students to complete the organizer that compares a 19th century soldier to a 21st century soldier.</p> <p>Distribute <i>Worksheet # 4: The Battle of Queenston Heights</i>. Ask students to complete the activity. Discuss issues including the impact of the environment on soldiers engaged in battle at this site. Point out that the picture is an artistic rendering of events. Did the artist take liberties with historical facts?</p>	<p><i>War of 1812.</i></p> <p>Complete <i>Worksheet #2: Historical Geography and the Royal Newfoundland Regiment in the War of 1812.</i></p> <p>Participate in the class discussion.</p> <p>Compare 19th century soldiers to 21st century soldiers.</p> <p>Complete <i>Worksheet # 3: Then and Now.</i></p> <p>Complete <i>Worksheet # 4: The Battle of Queenston Heights.</i></p> <p>Offer thoughts and conclusions.</p>
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>Ask students to write a summary paragraph on the significance of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment to the War of 1812.</p>	<p>Write a summary paragraph on the significance of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment to the War of 1812.</p>

Lesson Extension

- Research interesting characters from the War of 1812, such as Andrew Bulger who was born in Newfoundland. Students may research the role played by the Regiment in the capture of the American ships, *Tigress* and *Scorpion*. Use various methods to present this information to the class.
- If you visit *Signal Hill National Historic Site* in the summertime, you may see the Tattoo being performed. Research the background of this event and report to your class about it. Maybe you can interview someone who has participated in it.
- Research and write an essay on other battles in which the Royal Newfoundland Regiment was involved.
- Research Douglas Coupland's sculpture in Toronto of the War of 1812 which uses the Royal Newfoundland Regiment as its model.

Assessment

The worksheets could be collected and assessed for completion and accuracy.

Further Reading

- *Canadian Geographic War of 1812* poster-map
- War of 1812 interactive map & timeline
<http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/war1812>
- Sutherland, Robert. *Son of the Hounds*, Markham, ON: Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 1988/2000.
- Pearson, Kit. *Whispers of War: The War of 1812 Diary of Susanna Merritt*, Markham, ON: Scholastic Books, 2002.

Link to Canadian National Standards for Geography

Essential Element #2: Places and Regions

- Physical and human characteristics of places and regions in Canada and the world
- Changes in places and regions over time

Essential Element #5: Environment and Society

- Limits and opportunities of the physical environment for human activities

Essential Element # 6: The Uses of Geography

- Effects of physical and human geographic factors on major historic events

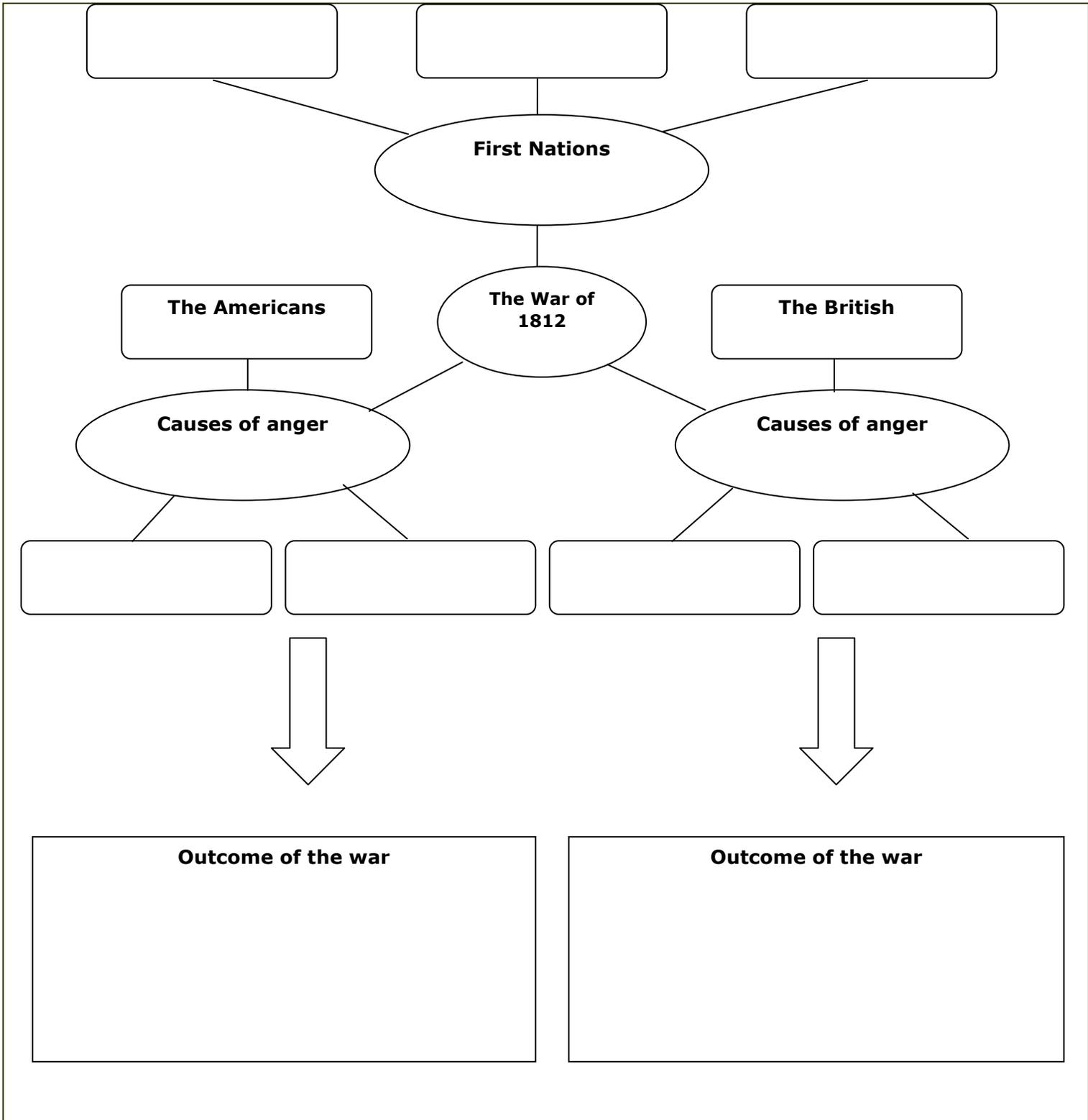
Geographic Skill #2: Acquiring Geographic Information

- Use a variety of research skills to locate and collect geographic data.
- Use maps to collect and/or compile geographic information.

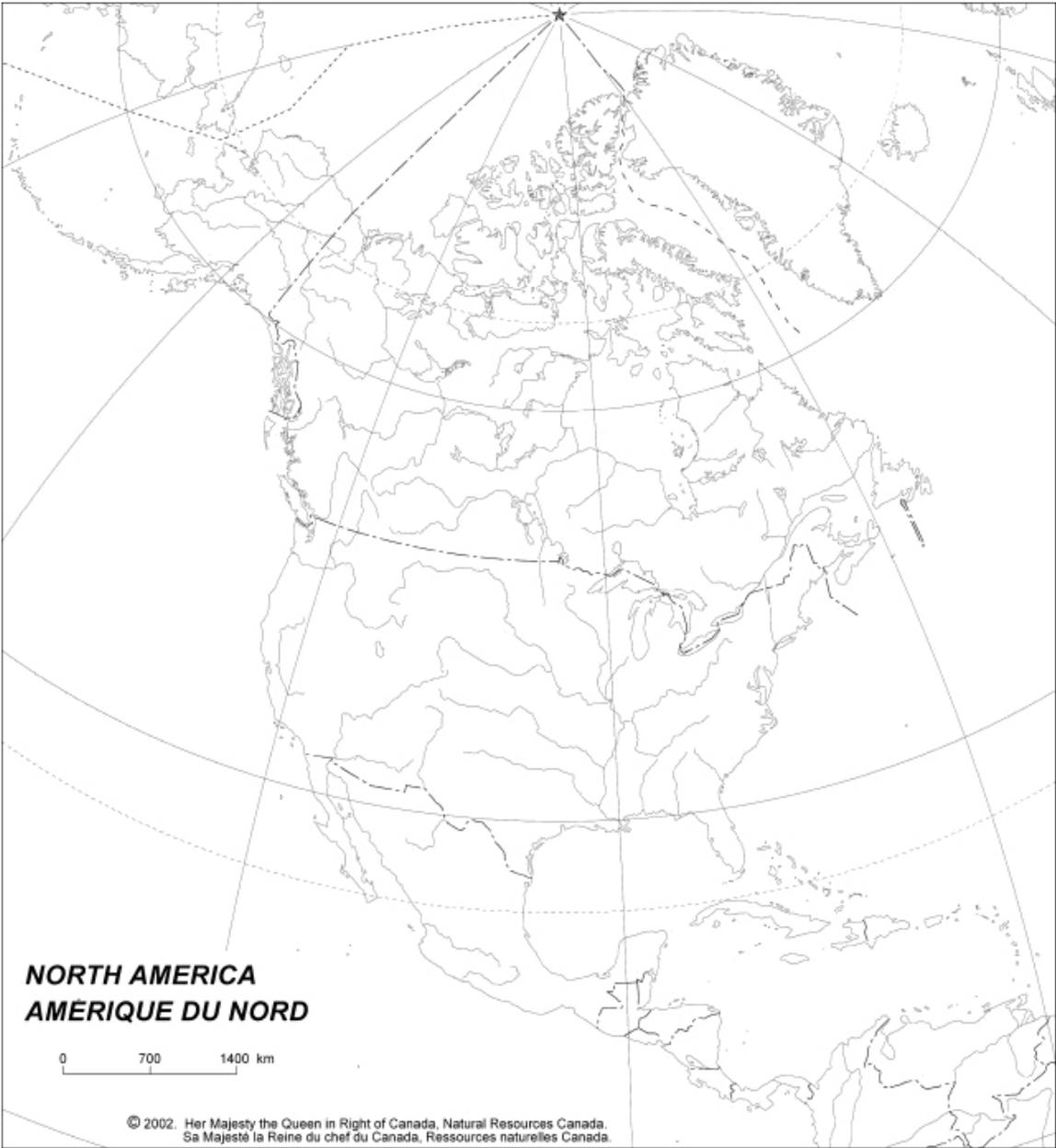
Geographic Skill #4: Analyzing Geographic Information

- Interpret and synthesize information obtained from a variety of sources – graphs, charts, tables, diagrams, texts, photographs, documents and interviews.

Worksheet #1: Causes and Outcomes of the War of 1812



Worksheet #2: Historical Geography and the Royal Newfoundland Regiment in the War of 1812





Instructions:

1. Read about the history of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment (RNR) in the War of 1812 from the Signal Hill Tattoo website:
<http://rnchs.ca/tattoo/fi.html>.
2. Use a different coloured pencil to **label** each site that the RNR saw action in the war on the maps above.
3. **Label** the town where the RNR they were formed.
4. **Make a list** of geographical factors that would have affected the soldiers in battle.
5. What **hardships** would the location of the war cause for 19th century soldiers?

Worksheet # 3: Then and Now



Grenadier Private of the Royal
Newfoundland Fencibles

Artist: R.J. Marrion

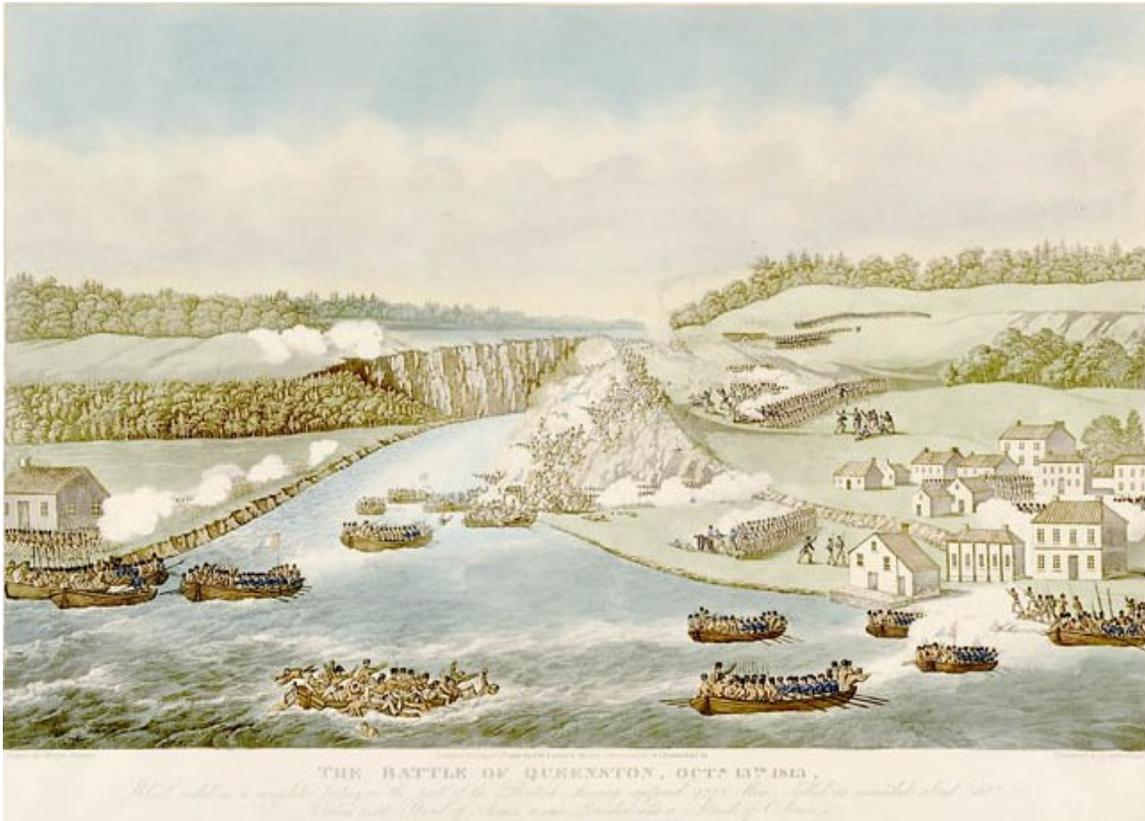
Copyright: Canadian War Museum
http://www.warof1812.ca/r_newfld.htm



Source: National Defence http://www.army.forces.gc.ca/37cbg_hq/jobs-emplois/index-eng.asp

	19th Century Soldier	Modern Day Soldier
Clothing		
Armaments		
Training		
Movement to Battle		
Benefits		

Worksheet # 4: The Battle of Queenston Heights



Source: The Battle of Queenston Heights, by James B. Dennis (the Library and Archives Canada – public domain)

Instructions:

Refer to the image above to answer the following questions.

1. Which geographical factors made it easier or more difficult for the British to defend Queenston Heights?
2. Which geographical factors made it easier or more difficult for the Americans to attack Queenston Heights?
3. Do you think that the artist has portrayed the battle accurately or did he change anything in this picture from the actual event? Explain.