Privateers in the War of 1812

Lesson Overview

This lesson will focus on the role of Nova Scotia's privateers during the War of 1812. Students will conduct research about privateers and then complete a journal assignment. They will write from the perspective of a captain or sailor on a privateering vessel. The entries should describe a series of events including leaving port, engaging a vessel from the United States of America, the conflict and returning to port with the captured ship and its cargo.

Grade Level

Grade 7-9 (middle school)

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): Nova Scotia

Additional Resources, Materials and Equipment Required

- Privateer Information Data Collection Sheet (attached)
- Access to a computer lab, LCD Projector and the internet
  Websites:
  The National Archives and Records Administration: War of 1812
  http://www.archive.org/details/gov.archives.arc.37624

  Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management – Spoils of War: Privateering in Nova Scotia

  http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm/virtual/privateers/intro.asp?Language=English

  The Canadian Encyclopedia - Privateering
  http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1ARTA0006502

  Virtual Museum of Canada – Privateers Encyclopedia
  http://www.corsaires.ca/_en/ency_8400_glossaire.html

  The National Battlefields Commission – Pirates, Privateers and freebooters
  http://pirates.ccbn-nbc.gc.ca/en/default.php#pirates

  Canadian Atlas Online War of 1812 theme
  http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas

  Parks Canada
  http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/np-pn/index_e.asp

Main Objective

The main goal of this lesson is for students to investigate the role of privateers in Nova Scotia during the War of 1812. Through online research and teacher directed activities, students will gain a better understanding of Nova Scotia's role in the War of 1812, analyze the life of a sailor on board a schooner such as the 'Liverpool Pocket', synthesize the information gathered and write a series of journal entries about capturing an American sea vessel.

Learning Outcomes

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

- acquire information about the War of 1812;
- access information from the internet;
- collect and compile information;
- create a series of journal entries;
- develop an understanding of the use of privateers during the War of 1812.

The Lesson

	Teacher Activity	**Student Activity**
	The Lesson	
Introduction	Use the following multimedia clip to provide some background information about the War of 1812 from a naval perspective. (This is an American video, but it mentions privateers and focuses on the naval element of the war.) The United States National Archives and Records Administration: *War of 1812* http://www.archive.org/details/gov.archives.arc.37624 Ask the following questions: • *What did you observe in the video?* • *Whose perspective is represented?* • *What would it be like to be a soldier or a sailor in 1812?* • *What would it be like to be an ordinary citizen?*	Offer answers to the teacher's questions.
Lesson Development	Ask students to read the following article from the Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management and answer the questions below. *Spoils of War: Privateering in Nova Scotia* http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm/virtual/privateers/intro.asp?Language=English • What is the definition of a privateer? • How are they different than military sailors? • What is a "letter of marque"? • How were privateers used in war? Distribute the *Privateer Data Collection Sheet* to students. Review the instructions and ask students to complete the organizer. (This may be assigned for homework.) Review responses and check for completion before starting the journal assignment.	Read the article and answer the questions. Complete the *Privateer Data Collection Sheet.*

	Journal assignment:	Conduct research and create journal entries.
	Instruct students conduct research about privateers during the War of 1812 and write at least **5** journal entries from the perspective of a captain or sailor on a privateering vessel. Entries should describe leaving port, engaging an American vessel, the conflict and returning to port with the captured ship and its cargo. Remind students to write about the regional conflict and how this might lead to an economic benefit for the privateers. (Provide students with websites listed in the Additional Resources section of this lesson plan to guide their research.)	
	Assist with research and journal writing as required. Encourage students to be creative with the journals. Samples of real journals from this time can be found at Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management website.	
	Journal Samples:	
	Spoils of War: Privateering in Nova Scotia http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm/virtual/privateers/archives.asp?ID=90	
Conclusion	Invite students to share their entries.	Share their journal entries.

Lesson Extension

1) Watch the video of Stan Rogers' *"Barrett's Privateers".* (Find and read the lyrics.) http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/war_of_1812/videos/

2) Work in small groups and create a visual essay of privateering during the War of 1812 using a traditional poster or through another multimedia program.

Assessment of Student Learning

• Use a rubric to assess the journal entries. Students could also use a rubric to complete a self-evaluation. An example of a rubric for journal entries can be found at:http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.php?screen=ShowRubric&module=Rubistar&rubric_id=1165989

• Evaluate the *Privateer Data Collection Sheet* for completion and accuracy.

Further Reading
- *Canadian Geographic War of 1812* poster-map

- War of 1812 interactive map & timeline

  http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/war1812

Link to Canadian National Standards for Geography

Essential Element#2: Places and Regions
- World political regions

Essential Element #4: Human Systems
- Regional development in Canada and the world
- Territorial dispute and conflict

Geographic Skill #2: Acquiring Geographic Information
- Use a variety of research skills to locate and collect geographic data.

Geographic Skill #3: Organizing Geographic Information
- Integrate various types of materials to organize 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.

Privateer Data Collection Sheet

Name _____

Instructions:
- Go to http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/~jacktar/shiplist.html#1812. Scroll down to *"Canadian Privateer Vessels in the War of 1812"*

1) Select one of the following ships:
   - N Liverpool Packet Liverpool 1812-1814
   - N Retrieve Windsor, NS 1813-1814
   - N Rolla Liverpool 1814-1815
   - N Sir John Sherbrooke Halifax 1813-1814
   (You may choose another ship with your teacher's permission)

2) Use the internet and the library to conduct research on the ship you selected and complete the organizer below.

Name & Date	
Size of Crew	
Size of Ship (Tonnage)	
Type of Ship (Rig)	
Guns (Armament)	
Home port	
Letter of Marque Issued	
Captain(s)	
Owner(s)	
Prizes Taken	
General Information	
Sources	
Additional Research Information	