

# Forts of the War of 1812

## Lesson Overview

Students will learn the advantages and disadvantages of the geographic locations of forts in the War of 1812. They will research military engagements that occurred at those locations. Students will discuss the effects of the particular location and environment on the results of the battles.

## Grade Level

Grade 7

## Time Required

Two class periods

(Students may need further homework time to complete the report.)

## Curriculum Connection (Province/Territory and course)

Ontario (Revised), Geography, Grade 7, The Themes of Geographic Inquiry

Ontario (Revised), History, Grade 7, British North America

## Additional Resources, Materials and Equipment Required

- Access to a blackboard, whiteboard or chart paper and markers
- Student Activity Sheet: Forts of the War of 1812 (attached)
- Access to the internet

### Web Sites:

*Canadian Atlas Online War of 1812 theme*

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

Galafilm: Maps of the War of 1812

<http://www.galafilm.com/1812/e/maps/index.html>

Historica Dominion Institute

[www.historica-dominion.ca](http://www.historica-dominion.ca)

Parks Canada

[www.pc.gc.ca/fortgeorge](http://www.pc.gc.ca/fortgeorge) (or the name of your selected fort)

## Main Objective

To make students aware of the effects of physical geography on historical events.

## Learning Outcomes

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

- discuss environmental factors that are advantageous to the location of a fort;
  - draw a sketch map;
  - use the *Canadian Atlas Online*;
  - clearly summarize the results of their research;
  - evaluate environmental factors on the outcomes of a military engagements.
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## The Lesson

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	Teacher Activity	Student Activity
<b>Introduction</b>	<p>Day 1:</p> <p>[NOTE: This lesson assumes that students are already aware of a conflict between Britain and the United States in 1812.]</p> <p>Open a discussion on the need for defences in Upper Canada.</p> <p>Pose this problem for discussion: "If you had been building a fort at the time of the War of 1812, what factors would have affected your choice of location?"</p> <p>Lead a discussion to identify factors such as closeness to transportation routes, a good view of the surrounding area, open space for British style battle, escape routes, availability of building materials.</p> <p>List the factors discussed on the blackboard.</p>	<p>Take part in the discussion, listen carefully to others and add ideas.</p> <p>Contribute good physical site features for fort locations.</p>
<b>Lesson Development</b>	<p>Direct students to choose a fort that was involved in the War of 1812. You may limit their choices if you wish (e.g. only British forts or only forts within present day Ontario). Go to a website together that provides a map of such forts. (There are many maps posted online, such as the Galafilm website <i>Maps of the War of 1812</i>.)</p> <p>Distribute the Student Activity Sheet entitled <i>Forts of the War of 1812</i>. Students should use the rest of this class to describe the location of their chosen fort and to list their strategic advantages and disadvantages.</p>	<p>Choose a fort.</p> <p>Research the location of his/her fort and complete Parts #1-3 on the Student Activity Sheet.</p>

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	<p>Day 2:</p> <p>Ensure that students understand the worksheet assignment.</p> <p>Direct students to the websites listed on the Student Activity Sheet.</p> <p>Help students navigate the websites to find suitable information.</p>	<p>Complete the Student Activity Sheet.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<p>Direct discussion about what students have learned through their research.</p>	<p>Share findings with the class.</p> <p>Listen to others and complete notes.</p>

### Lesson Extension

Create a poster of a fort from the War of 1812. Post several examples in the classroom.

### Assessment of Student Learning

- Mark the answer sheets and final reports.
- Give students a short reading on one of the battles of the War of 1812. Have them write a paragraph independently to discuss how the outcomes of this battle were affected by the environment.
- Have students use the same web sites for further independent research and assess their ability and comfort level in doing web-based research.

### 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 #6: The Uses of Geography

- Effects of physical geographic factors on major historic events

Geographic Skill #2: Acquiring geographic information

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

Geographic Skill #3: Organizing geographic information

- Prepare various forms of maps as a means of organizing geographic information.

Geographic Skill #5: Answering geographic questions

- Develop and present combinations of geographic information to answer geographic questions.
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## **Student Activity Sheet: Forts of the War of 1812**

Choose a fort that was involved with the War of 1812. Research the effects of the location of this fort on military engagements in the War of 1812.

Use the following web sites to conduct your research:

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

Historica Dominion Institute [www.historica-dominion.ca](http://www.historica-dominion.ca)

Parks Canada [www.pc.gc.ca/fortgeorge](http://www.pc.gc.ca/fortgeorge) (or the name of the fort you have selected)

Write a report on your research which includes:

1. The title of your Fort.
  2. A description of the location of your fort and its immediate environment. Include a sketch map and diagram of your fort's site.
  3. The advantages and disadvantages of its location – Discuss ways in which the location of this fort might help or hurt it in a military encounter.
  4. A description of the defensive role of your fort or its involvement in battles close by during the War of 1812.
  5. The effect of location. Explain how the location and the immediate environment affected any of the events described in section #4 above.
  6. A list of sources. List the websites used to gather your information. Be specific about how they helped you understand the location of your fort.
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