

The War of 1812: Fortress Prince Edward Island

Lesson Overview

In this lesson, student groups investigate different forts. From their research they will generate a description and a list of items that the students want to include in a fictional 'Fortress PEI'. Next, they will design a fort by creating a 'blueprint' of their group's fort. They will choose a site and design a fort to be built on Prince Edward Island. The students will then compare and contrast their forts.

Grade Level

Grades 7-9 (middle school)

Time Required

Two to three one hour classes, plus extension lessons if desired.

Curriculum Connection (Province/Territory and course)

Atlantic Provinces Curriculum for Social Studies: Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training (CAMET): Prince Edward Island

Additional Resources, Materials and Equipment Required

- Forts During the War of 1812 and Web Links (attached)
- Fortress PEI Footprint Assignment (attached)
- Graph paper
- Access to a computer lab, LCD Projector, white board and internet access

Websites:

Americans and British Face off in War 1812

<http://www.history.com/topics/war-of-1812/videos#americans-and-british-face-off-in-war-of-1812>

The Battle of Fort George

http://www.pc.gc.ca/media/index_e.asp?video=3

Canadian Atlas Online War of 1812 theme

<http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas/intro.aspx?lang=en>

Parks Canada

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

The Canadian Encyclopedia

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=HomePage&Params=A1>

Information about forts (designs and/or maps):

Index of Forts of the War of 1812

http://www.galafilm.com/1812/e/catalogues/fort_index.html

Defence of Canada 3D

http://www.pc.gc.ca/dci/src/3d_e.asp?what=themes&sitename=&theme=dc&btn_state=HTML

Main Objective

In this lesson, student groups investigate different forts from the War of 1812. They will design a fort to be built on a site on Prince Edward Island. From their research they will generate a description and a list of features that the students may want to include in '*Fortress PEI*'. Through online research and teacher directed activities, small groups of students will create a 'blueprint' (footprint) of their group's fort. The students compare and contrast their forts with one another,

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;
 - complete a fort rating exercise, evaluation and ranking;
 - develop an understanding of the use of forts during the War of 1812;
 - design a blueprint of a fort for the time period of 1812;
 - develop an understanding of the concept of 'site'.
-

The Lesson

The Lesson		
	Teacher Activity	Student Activity
Introduction	<p>Begin this lesson by showing the following media clips. They will give the students an understanding of the beginnings of the War of 1812:</p> <p>Americans and British Face off in War 1812: http://www.history.com/topics/war-of-1812/videos#americans-and-british-face-off-in-war-of-1812</p> <p>The battle of Fort George: http://www.pc.gc.ca/media/index_e.asp?video=3</p> <p>(There were a number of forts built by both the British and the Americans before and during the War of 1812. The purpose of these constructions was to act as defences and fortified bases. They protected the colonists, property and served to ensure the sovereignty of the nation. Initially wooden stockades were erected, surrounded in some cases by ditches. Later many wooden structures were replaced by more permanent stone structures. As time moved on, the forts continued to protect the economic and military travel routes connecting the new towns. Many forts served as centres for economic development. Manpower, organization and the use of natural landscape features enabled both sides to build forts that would play a role in the War of 1812. The construction of a particular fort depended greatly on the needs or purposes for which it was built, as well as finding an appropriate site and the materials available at the time and place of construction.)</p>	Watch the multimedia clips.
Lesson Development	<p>Begin a <i>Fortress PEI</i> "K-W-L" chart on forts. (A K-W-L chart features three categories: Know — what students think they already know about forts; Want to learn/know — what students would like to learn about forts; Learned — what students learn about</p>	Contribute to the KWL chart.

	<p>forts through the course of the lesson.)</p> <p>Discuss what the concepts of 'site' and 'situation' mean and how they relate to building a fort on Prince Edward Island during the period of 1812.</p> <p>Divide students into small groups and instruct them to go to the <i>Canadian Atlas Online War of 1812</i> theme and to read the various themes and information presented for background information.</p> <p>Distribute the student activity sheet <i>Forts During the War of 1812 and Web Links</i> to research 5 forts on the internet and generate a description and a list of items that the students want to include in <i>Fortress PEI</i>.</p> <p>Distribute several sheets of graph paper and the <i>Fortress PEI Footprint Assignment</i>.</p>	<p>Locate and review the information found in the <i>Canadian Atlas Online War of 1812</i> theme.</p> <p>Complete the internet research.</p> <p>Complete the <i>Fortress PEI Footprint Assignment</i>.</p>
Conclusion	As a class, review and discuss plans for <i>Fortress PEI</i> .	Discuss plans for <i>Fortress PEI</i> .

Lesson Extension

- Create a list of "Ten Things Every Fort Should Have".
- Build a model of their fort.
- Locate the forts of the War of 1812 and map them on a blank map of North America. Locate and label the names of the forts, major water features and cities. Include a legend. Use blue for the Americans and red for the British.
- Write a letter to someone in Great Britain about what life would be like living in one of these forts during the War of 1812.

Assessment of Student Learning

- Teacher will evaluate the group's *Fortress PEI Footprint Assignment*.

Further Reading

- *Canadian Geographic War of 1812* poster-map
 - War of 1812 interactive map & timeline
<http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/war1812>
 - Map of the St-Lawrence and Lake Champlain
<http://www.galafilm.com/1812/e/maps/map881.html>
 - Map of War of 1812 Lake Ontario
<http://www.galafilm.com/1812/e/maps/map590.html>
-

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.
-

Forts during the War of 1812 and Web Links

Instructions: Choose any **five** of the following forts. Describe the features and location (site and situation) of each fort and create a list of items that your group wants to include in *Fortress PEI*.

#	Name	Web Links
1	Fort Edward	Fort Edward National Historic Site: http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/ns/edward/index.aspx
2	Halifax Citadel	Halifax Citadel National Historic Site: http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/ns/halifax/index.aspx 3D Tour: http://www.pc.gc.ca/dci/src/3d_e.asp?what=site&sitename=hfxcit&theme=dc&btn_state=HTML
3	Fort George	Fort George National Historic Site: http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/on/fortgeorge/index.aspx 3D Tour: http://www.pc.gc.ca/dci/src/3d_e.asp?what=text&sitename=fg&theme=de&btn_state=3-D Fort George National Historic Site: http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1ARTA0002941
4	Fort Erie	Old Fort Erie Grounds Tour: http://www.niagaraparks.com/old-fort-erie/tour.html
5	Fort McHenry	Fort McHenry: http://www.galafilm.com/1812/e/catalogues/fort954b.html
6	Fort Mims	Fort Mims: http://www.galafilm.com/1812/e/catalogues/fort756.html
7	Fort Ontario	Friends of Fort Ontario: http://www.fortontario.com/History/History.html
8	Fort Henry	Fort Henry: http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1ARTA0002944
9	Fort Niagara	Old Fort Niagara: http://oldfortniagara.org/visit/admissions.php

Fortress PEI Footprint Assignment

Instructions: Look at the following website and create your own 'footprint' of a fictional *Fortress PEI*. (A footprint is the same as a blueprint or a floor plan.) Use graph paper to draw the layout of the fort. Assign and label a number to each building, defensive structures and any other important features of the fort. On a separate sheet of paper create a number list labelling the items on your 'footprint'. Include the name of the location where you would construct the fort. Discuss the site conditions and natural resources that would have to be present before building the fort.

Sample 'footprint' of Fort Mims:

Source: <http://www.galafilm.com/1812/e/catalogues/fort756.html>

