

The War of 1812: Shaping Canadian Identity

Lesson Overview

Students will assume the role of a member of a local historical society that has been asked to approve a list of important historical events for inclusion in an upcoming commemorative series of stamps/coins. Further research must be conducted in order to provide an informed opinion about whether the War of 1812 should be included in the list. Students must determine causes of the war, important people, key locations, impacts of the conflict and how the war has shaped Canadian identity in order to make their recommendation.

Grade Level

Grade 8

Time Required

Teachers should be able to conduct the lesson in one or two classes.

Curriculum Connection (Province/Territory and course)

Saskatchewan Grade 8 Social Studies: Dynamic Relationships

- DR8.3 Assess how historical events in Canada (such as the War of 1812) have affected the present Canadian identity.

Additional Resources, Materials and Equipment Required

- *Canadian Geographic War of 1812* poster-map
- Task cards (attached)
- The War of 1812 Fact Finding Summary Chart (attached)
- Computers with internet access

Websites:

War of 1812 interactive map & timeline

<http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/war1812>

Canadian Atlas Online War of 1812 theme

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

Main Objective

Students will explore the location, causes and participants of the War of 1812. They will understand and explain how participating in the war has shaped Canada's identity as a country today.

Learning Outcomes

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

- identify the key people involved in the War of 1812 conflict;
- outline the background causes leading to the conflict;
- locate the key locations in Canada where the conflict took place;
- describe the short term and long term impacts of the War of 1812 on Canada;
- explain how participating in the War of 1812 has shaped Canada's identity as a country today.

	Clearly, you will recommend events from Western Canada, but you question and express doubt to your society members about whether or not the War of 1812 is important and appropriate for the list.	Agree that the Western and more recent events should be approved in the list, but vocally and visibly question the worthiness of the War of 1812 as a possibility.
Lesson Development	<p>Ask the historical society members to conduct a fact finding mission to ensure that they have the facts before they make a final judgement and decision.</p> <p>Recommend that members examine the resources sanctioned by the society:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Canadian Geographic War of 1812</i> poster-map • War of 1812 interactive map & timeline http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/war1812 • <i>Canadian Atlas Online War of 1812</i> theme http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas <p>Ask members to summarize their findings on <i>The War of 1812 Fact Finding Summary Chart</i> (attached). Distribute a copy of the chart to each member of the historical society and review the instructions as required.</p> <p>Ask members to draft a summary of the three most important reasons why the War of 1812 should remain on the list, based on the facts gathered in their research.</p>	<p>Conduct research to find facts about the War of 1812.</p> <p>Summarize the facts and make a decision to keep the War of 1812 on the list or not. Use <i>The War of 1812 Fact Finding Summary Chart</i> to record evidence that supports the decision.</p> <p>Draft a summary of the three most important reasons why the War of 1812 should remain on the list, based on the facts gathered.</p>
Conclusion	Hear the committee member's final decisions and reasons for keeping the War of 1812 from the list. Prepare a common list of reasons that explains how the War of 1812 shaped Canadian society.	Present final recommendations to the historical society. Outline (in writing and/or oral form) at least three ways that the War of 1812 shaped Canada's identity and should therefore

	<p>Call for a vote of the committee after hearing all the members.</p> <p>Help the committee draft a response to the Department of Canadian Heritage that will be the society's final answer to the request and outline all of the reasons why the War of 1812 should be kept on the list.</p>	<p>be kept on the list.</p>
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Lesson Extension

- Conduct research and prepare a paper on the role of the Whitecap Dakota First Nation, who took up permanent residence in the Saskatchewan area in the 1860's and their role as British allies during the War of 1812.
- Based on their research on the Whitecap Dakota First Nation and their role in the War of 1812, create a commemorative Canadian stamp.

Assessment of Student Learning

- Assess *The War of 1812 Fact Finding Summary Chart*.

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
- Factors that influence people's perception of places and regions
- Changes in places and regions over time
- World political regions

Essential Element #4: Human Systems

- Territorial dispute and conflict

Essential Element #5: The Uses of Geography

- Effects of physical and human geographic factors on major historical 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.

TASK CARD

You are a member of a local historical society interested in research and preservation of Canadian historical artefacts and documents. You are a member from Saskatchewan and are not as knowledgeable about Eastern Canadian history as you are about your own local history, but you are willing to learn so you can provide support to the society.

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The War of 1812 Fact Finding Summary

Fact Finding

Causes	
Important Events/Campaigns	
People	
Locations	
Impacts	

Summary

The War of 1812 impacted Canada's identity in 3 major ways:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.