

Battles of the War of 1812

Creating, Designing and Understanding the War through 3-Dimensional Modeling

Learning outcomes: This activity will provide students the opportunity to recreate one of the major battles that took place during the war of 1812. Based on evidence they have researched, the three-dimensional model will allow students to explore the intensity of the war scene, strategies used in battle, and the overall atmosphere/mood of the battle.

Activity: Working in flexible groupings, students will create a three-dimensional model of one of the major battles during the time of the war. Students will be asked to design a realistic model that will include the presence of key historical figures and display what they believe the battle would have looked like during that time. Students will also submit a write up along with their battle scene explaining the event as well as the artistic elements they used to accurately create the model.

Suggested battles that can be recreated:

- [Michilimackinac](#)
- [Detroit](#)
- [Queenston Heights](#)
- [Beaver Dams](#)
- [Thames \(Moraviantown\)](#)
- [Chateauguay](#)
- [Lundy's Lane](#)
- [Battles of Plattsburg \(Lake Champlain\)](#)
- [Battle of Lake Erie \(Put-in-Bay\)](#)

Suggested materials students can use:

- Wood
- Popsicle sticks
- Glue (glue guns and glue sticks)
- Styrofoam
- A variety of paints and paint brushes
- Modeling clay
- Plastic army figures
- Construction paper in assorted colours
- Scissors
- Tape
- Pencil crayons/ markers
- Fabric in assorted colours

Tips for teachers:

- Students can create their model on a piece of wood or in large shoebox

- Be sure students include in their write-up an explanation of the artistic elements of design (for example, how they used colour to create the mood and atmosphere of the model)
- Be sure that students include visible signs or symbols of the battle as it was during that time (for example, they may want to include a British and American Flag, or they may want to have their soldiers dressed or painted in appropriate attire)

Follow-up discussion:

Have students present their models to the class. When presenting, ask the following questions:

1. How does your model accurately represent the battle you have chosen?
2. What did you learn about scene of war? What do you notice is happening in your scene?