

Canadian Identity and the War of 1812: How the Map of North America Could Look

Lesson Overview

In this lesson students will examine the impact of the War of 1812 on Canadian history and on the map of North America. First, they will locate and re-create significant battles in the War of 1812. Next, they will redraw the political boundaries of North America to illustrate how the division of space on this continent would be different if the United States had won the War of 1812.

Grade Level

Grade 9

Time Required

Two sixty minute classes

Curriculum Connection (Province/Territory and course)

Yukon, Social Studies 9 (British Columbia curriculum)

Additional Resources, Materials and Equipment Required

- Student Activity #1: War of 1812 Basics (attached)
- Teacher Handout: The War of 1812 Important Events (attached)
- Student Activity #2: Mapping Assignment (attached)
- Access to computers and the internet

Websites

James Madison and the War of 1812

<http://www.history.com/topics/war-of-1812/videos#james-madison-and-the-war-of-1812>

War of 1812

<http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/sswetw/index.html>

War of 1812 – The Canadian Encyclopedia

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1ARTA0008442>

- Map of North America (overhead or computer projected)
A sample can be found at the Atlas of Canada:
http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/auth/english/maps/reference/international/north_america
- Paper, markers and any other appropriate props

Main Objective

The main objective of this lesson is for students to understand the importance of the War of 1812 in the history of Canada and its impact on the map of North America.

Learning Outcomes

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

- Co-operatively plan, implement, and assess a course of action that addresses the problem, issue, or inquiry initially identified;
- Assess how identity is shaped by a variety of factors, including:
 - family
 - gender
 - belief systems
 - ethnicity
 - nationality;
- Analyse the roots of present-day regional, cultural, and social issues within Canada.

(Source: British Columbia IRP: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/ss810.pdf>)

The Lesson

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	Teacher Activity	Student Activity
Introduction	<p>Enter the classroom and tell students that history has changed and Britain lost the War of 1812. Canada is now part of the United States.</p> <p>Divide students into pairs to complete a THINK-PAIR-SHARE activity on this topic:</p> <p>“How would your life be different if the United States had taken over present-day Canada in the War of 1812?”</p> <p>(A THINK-PAIR-SHARE activity involves students brainstorming individually for 2 minutes, then pairing up with a partner and sharing their ideas and finally sharing their ideas with the class.)</p> <p>Students will likely discuss differences in pop culture, shopping, social programs, language, government and other aspects of American identity that separate Canadians from Americans.</p>	<p>Complete the THINK-PAIR-SHARE activity.</p>
Lesson Development	<p>Explain that the War of 1812 allowed Britain to retain control over Canada.</p> <p>Show students the brief video on James Madison and the War of 1812. Ask students to complete <i>Student Activity #1: War of 1812 Basics</i> from the information presented in the video.</p> <p>Review the answers to the activity with students to ensure that there is a general understanding of the War of 1812.</p> <p>Divide students into small groups of 2-3 students. Distribute one of the important events of the War of 1812 to each student group. These can be</p>	<p>Complete <i>Student Activity #1: War of 1812 Basics</i> after watching the video.</p> <p>Review the answers to the activity as a class.</p>

	<p>cut out from the teacher handout <i>The War of 1812 Important Events</i> (attached).</p> <p>Ask student groups to go to the following War of 1812 website and locate their battle: http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/swetw/index.html .</p> <p>The section on the War of 1812 in the Canadian Encyclopedia may also be helpful as a resource.</p> <p>Place a large map of North America on the board (you may use either a computer image or an overhead projector.)</p> <p>Next, ask students to briefly re-enact their battle to show the significant events that took place. Supply students with paper, markers and any other appropriate props to use to re-enact their event.</p>	<p>Groups should locate their battle and label it on the map at the front of the room.</p> <p>Each group should creatively re-enact their battle or event using any props that they feel are necessary.</p>
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>Distribute <i>Student Activity #2: Mapping Assignment</i> and a blank map of North America to each student.</p> <p>Review the instructions with students and clarify as necessary.</p> <p>While this is a creative mapping assignment, students should still give their maps an appropriate title and include all essential map elements (scale, legend, compass).</p>	<p>Complete <i>Student Activity #2: Mapping Assignment</i>.</p>

Lesson Extension

Write an essay on the significance of the War of 1812 to the map of Canada and/or the map of North America.

Assessment of Student Learning

- Presentations (re-enacting battles) can be assessed using a modified version of the assessment tool located on page 111 the BC Social Studies 9 IRP.
<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/ss810.pdf> .

- Maps can be assessed using the criteria on *Student Activity #2: Mapping Assignment*.
- Paragraph criteria can be found at:
http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/search/grade11/english/release/key/0811ss_pk.pdf

Further Reading

- *Canadian Geographic War of 1812* poster-map
- *Canadian Atlas Online War of 1812* theme
<http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas>
- War of 1812 interactive map & timeline
<http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/war1812>

Link to Canadian National Standards for Geography

Essential Element #2: Places and Regions

- The importance of places and regions to individual and social identity

Geographic Skill #3: Organizing geographic information

- Select and design appropriate forms of maps to organize geographic information.
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Student Activity #1: War of 1812 Basics

1. Why did Britain halt cargo ships from the United States that were bound for France?

2. What was the other reason the United States was upset with Britain?

3. What event allowed Britain to focus on their war with the United States?

4. What did the British troops do in August of 1814 and what was the impact of this event?

5. Name the Treaty that ended the War of 1812?

6. Where did the war's biggest battle take place?

7. What was the result of the war?

Teacher Handout: The War of 1812

Important Events

Hull invades Upper Canada

Brock attacks Detroit

Battle of Queenston Heights

Americans Burn York

Battle of Thames

British Burn Washington

Treaty of Ghent

Battle of New Orleans

Student Activity #2: Mapping Assignment

Task:

Now that you have a good understanding of the events and location of the War of 1812, you will **create a map** that illustrates what North America would look like if Britain had not won the war of 1812.

Please consider:

- How would the political boundaries be different?
- What would happen to more remote regions of Canada such as the Yukon?
- How much of present-day Canada would the United States claim?
- What would happen to the remainder of present-day Canada?

This is your opportunity to be creative, but remember to include all the essential map elements: scale, legend, compass and an appropriate title.

You must also submit a **150-200 word paragraph** explaining the decisions you made on your map.

Map Criteria

Legend is present and accurate	/3
Scale and compass are present	/2
Title is present and accurately reflects map information	/3
Boundaries are present and reflect a North America with less British influence.	/4
Map is well organized and neatly presented	/3
TOTAL	/15
