

Causes for the War of 1812
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Lesson Essential Questions:

Analyze why the United States declared war on Great Britain in 1812.

Sunshine State Standards

SSA 1331 SSA 4341
SSB 1311 SSB 2351

Directions

- Analyze the documents.
- Answer the questions related to each document.
- Use evidence from the documents, knowledge gained from reading the textbook, and your understanding of the people in the illustrations to support your answer.
- Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction with a topic sentence that answers the essay question, a body with several paragraphs explaining and supporting your answer, and a conclusion.
- Include specific related outside information.

Historical Background

Americans had successfully fought the Revolutionary War to gain independence from Britain. By the early 1800's, events and situations involving the British led many Americans to conclude that another war with Britain was necessary and inevitable.

Task

- For Part A, look at the documents or pictures and answer the questions using the information provided and prior knowledge learned from reading the Call to Freedom textbook.
- For Part B, use your answers from Part A, information from the documents, and your reading in the textbook to write a well-organized essay.

Document A:



1. What is happening in the illustration?
2. What does “impressment” mean?
3. Who was responsible for the impressment of American sailors?
4. How did Americans feel about this?

Document B:
USS Chesapeake



One highly publicized example of impressment took place in June 1807. The British ship *Leopold* stopped the U.S. Navy ship *Chesapeake* and tried to remove four of its sailors. When the *Chesapeake*'s captain refused, the British opened fire and took the sailors by force. The *Chesapeake* incident angered many Americans. Attorney General Caesar A. Rodney declared that it “has excited the spirit of '76 and the whole country is literally in arms”.

From the Call to Freedom textbook, Holt, Rineholt, Winston

5. Why did the British ship *Leopold* stop the US Navy ship *Chesapeake*?
6. What did the British do when the *Chesapeake*'s captain refused their demands?
7. What was the reaction of the American people to this incident?

Document C:

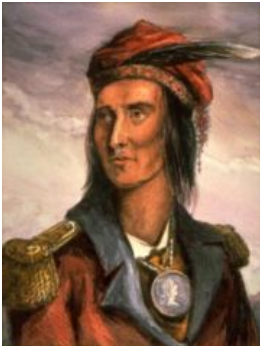
From the Embargo Act of 1807:

“Be it enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, that during the continuance of the act laying an embargo on all ships and vessels in the ports and harbors of the United States, no vessels of any description whatever, and wherever bound, whose employment is confined to the navigation of bays, sounds, rivers, and lakes, within the jurisdiction of the United States, (packets, ferryboats, and vessels, exempted from the obligation of giving any bond whatever, only exempted) shall be allowed to depart from any port of the United States without previously obtained a clearance.”

8. According to the document, what did this law prevent ships from doing?
9. Why did Congress pass the Embargo Act of 1807?
10. What was the effect of the Embargo Act on France and Britain?
11. What was the effect of the embargo on American merchants?

Document D:

Tecumseh



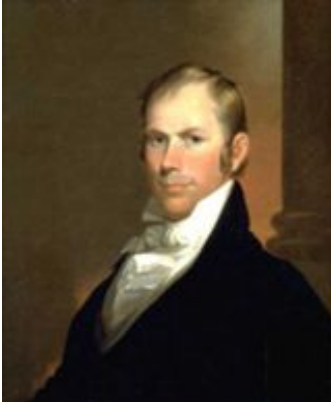
Tecumseh was a Shawnee Indian chief. He was a military leader and forceful spokesman for his people. He tried to warn others about the settlers who were moving onto their land:

“Where are the Narranganset, the Mohican, the Pokanoket and many other once powerful tribes of our people? They have vanished before the avarice and oppression of the white man, as snow before a summer sun.”

Tecumseh quoted in *Indian Wars*, by Robert Utley and Wilcomb E. Washburn. Printed in the Call to Freedom textbook.

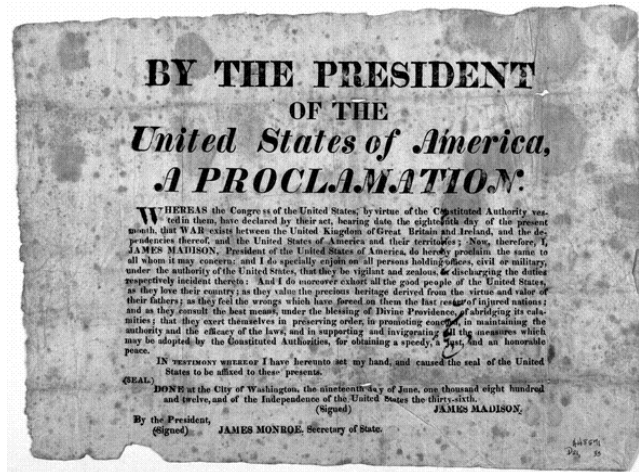
12. Who was Tecumseh?
13. What was he warning against?
14. Why did the British give military aid to Indian nations who were fighting Americans in the Northwest Territory?
15. How did Americans feel about this aid?
16. Who did many Americans blame for the fighting in the West?

Document E:



17. What was a "War Hawk"?
18. Who were Henry Clay and John C. Calhoun?
19. What did they hope the US would gain from a war with Britain?
20. Who were the strongest opponents of the War Hawks?

Document F:



"By the President of the United States of America, a proclamation. Whereas the Congress of the United States, by virtue of the constituted authority vested in them, have declared by their act...that war exists between the United Kingdom...and the United States of America and their territories...I James Madison...do hereby proclaim the same to all whom it may concern...Done at the city of Washington, the nineteenth day of June, one thousand, eight hundred and twelve... James Madison...(Washington, 1812).

21. Who was James Madison?
22. What did Congress do as a result of his June 1, 1812 speech?
23. According to the document, what did Madison proclaim as a result of Congress's action?

Part B: Essay

In your essay, remember to:

1. Using information in these documents and your prior knowledge, write an essay describing the causes of the War of 1812, how each contributed to the decision to declare war, and the resulting action taken by President Madison and Congress.
2. Include an introduction, body, and conclusion.

Scoring Rubric:

CATEGORY	10 Points	7 Points	5 Points	3 Points
Use of Research/Content	All topics are addressed and all questions answered with at least 2 sentences about each.	All topics are addressed and most questions answered with at least 2 sentences about each.	All topics are addressed, and most questions answered with 1 sentence about each.	One or more topics were not addressed.
Analysis	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It includes several supporting details and/or examples.	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It provides 1-2 supporting details and/or examples.	Information clearly relates to the main topic. No details and/or examples are given.	Information has little or nothing to do with the main topic.
Mechanics	No grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors.	Almost no grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors	A few grammatical spelling, or punctuation errors.	Many grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors.
Paragraph Development	All paragraphs include introductory sentence, explanations or details, and concluding sentence.	Most paragraphs include introductory sentence, explanations or details, and concluding sentence.	Paragraphs included related information but were typically not constructed well.	Paragraphing structure was not clear and sentences were not typically related within the paragraphs.

TOTAL=50 Points

YOUR SCORE = _____ out of possible 50 Points

This rubric was created at <http://rubistar.4teachers.org/>