

Document Based Question (DBQ): War of 1812
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Directions: the following question is based on the accompanying questions. This question is designed to test your ability to work with historic information from documents and timelines.

After you have read the documents and answered the questions with each, write an essay to answer the following question:

Why is the War of 1812 sometimes called the second war for American independence, and what do you think the war accomplished?

Statement

After the U.S gained their independence from Britain, they faced the greatest obstacle that would threaten their independence. This was a second war fought against Great Britain called the [War of 1812](#). The War of 1812 was a struggle to maintain America's independence from Great Britain.

By the winter of 1811–1812, commercial warfare had been pressed, in one form or another, for a full four years without securing a repeal of the damaging and nationally demeaning British policies to which the Jeffersonian Republicans objected. Before the new, Twelfth Congress met, the president reluctantly decided that his only choices were submission to these British policies or war. On June 18, 1812, in what was basically a party vote, a declaration of war passed the Congress.

Document 1

American History Timeline

War of 1812

DATE	EVENT
1803-1812	British impress approximately 10,000 Americans forcing them to work on British ships.
July 23, 1805	British decide in <i>Essex</i> case that American traders who travels between neutral and enemy ports will be justification for seizing many commercial ships.
January 25, 1806	James Madison delivers report concerning British interference and impressment of sailors causing much anti-British feelings to arise.

August, 1806	American minister James Monroe and envoy William Pinkney are unable to resolve the major problems between the British and Americans concerning commercial shipping and impressment.
1806	British blockade France; American ships are caught in the middle and the British seize approximately 1000 US ships.
March 1807	Thomas Jefferson receives the Monroe-Pinkney treaty but does not submit it to Congress because it is a dismal failure for the Americans.
June 1807	The American ship <i>Chesapeake</i> was fired on by the British ship <i>Leopard</i> after refusing to be boarded. This created an international incident.
December 1807	Thomas Jefferson attempts "peaceful coercion" of the British with his embargo but it results in economic disaster for merchants.
1811	Battle of Tippecanoe - Tecumseh's brother (the Prophet) led attack on Harrison's army of 1000 men.
June 18, 1812	America declares war against the British. This war is known as "Mr. Madison's War" or "The Second American Revolution."
August 16, 1812	U.S. loses Ft. Mackinac as the British invade American territory.
1812	Three attempts are made by the U.S. to invade Canada. They all end in failure.
1812	The <i>USS Constitution</i> ("Old Ironsides") defeats the <i>HMS Guerriere</i> .
January 1813	Battle of Frenchtown. British and Indian allies repel Kentucky troops in bloody fighting. The American survivors are killed in the Raisin River Massacre.
April 1813	Battle of York (Toronto). US troops take control of Great Lakes and burn York.

September 1813	Battle of Lake Erie. US forces under Captain Perry defeat a British naval attack.
October 1813	Battle of Thames (Ontario, Canada). Tecumseh is killed in a US victory.
March 27, 1814	Battle of Horseshoe Bend (Mississippi Territory). Andrew Jackson defeats the Creek Indians.
1814	The British plan a 3-part invasion of US: Chesapeake Bay, Lake Champlain, & the mouth of Mississippi River. The British are eventually turned back at Baltimore harbor.
August 24- 25, 1814	The British burn Washington, D.C. and Madison flees the White House.
September 1814	Battle of Plattsburgh (Lake Champlain). The US secures its northern border with a huge victory over a larger British force.
December 15, 1814	The Hartford Convention occurs. A group of Federalists discuss secession and propose seven amendments to protect the influence of Northeastern states.
December 24, 1814	Treaty of Ghent. The British and American diplomats agree to return to the status quo from before the war.
January 1815	Battle of New Orleans. Andrew Jackson scores a huge victory and paves the way to the White House. 700 British are killed, 1400 are wounded. The US only loses 8 soldiers.

Bibliography: Schlesinger, Arthur M. Jr. "The Almanac of American History." Barnes & Nobles Books. Greenwich, CT: 1993.

1. What was the name of the treaty that helped end the war?
2. What was "old Ironsides"?

3. What happened on December 15, 1814?

3. What other names was the War of 1812 known as?

Document 2



4. Whose portrait is this and what did he do for/during the war of 1812?

Document 3

The Brown Bess

The weapon that you see here is a Brown Bess musket, which was used by British soldiers during the colonial wars. Unlike modern weapons, the musket was very slow to load, highly inaccurate and frequently unreliable. A well-trained soldier could prime, load and fire three times in one minute. This involved a 12 step process in order to fire just one shot. Also, these muskets did not fire bullets, as we know them in the modern sense, but fired round lead balls, some of which were the size of a quarter. At short ranges, these lead balls could inflict horrible damage on soldiers as they did not pierce a person's body but rather smashed against it. Aside from the fact that this weapon took 20 seconds to load (often under enemy fire) and that it was prone to frequent misfires, it was also inaccurate. It was possible to hit an opponent only if he was standing not more than 50 meters in front of you. Any further away, and the chances of hitting him were greatly reduced. It was often said that soldiers did not aim their weapons; instead, they pointed them in a general direction and hoped for the best.



5. What was the "Brown Bess," who used it and how did it function? Give your opinion about the "Brown Bess."

Document 4

TREATY WITH GREAT BRITAIN. 1814.

HAMET, <i>Rais de Marine.</i>	(L. S.)
MAHAMET DEGHEIS, <i>First minister.</i>	(L. S.)
SALAH, <i>Aga of Divan.</i>	(L. S.)
SELIM, <i>Hamadar.</i>	(L. S.)
MURAT, <i>Dulartile.</i>	(L. S.)
MURAT RAIS, <i>Admiral.</i>	(L. S.)
SOLIMAN, <i>Kehia.</i>	(L. S.)
ABDALLA, <i>Basa Aga.</i>	(L. S.)
MAHAMET, <i>Scheig al Belad.</i>	(L. S.)
ALLI BEN DIALE, <i>First Secretary.</i>	(L. S.)

TREATY OF PEACE AND AMITY,

Between his Britannic Majesty and the United States of America. (a)

Dec. 24, 1814.

Ratified and confirmed, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, Feb. 17, 1815.

1821, ch. 40.
1827, ch. 36.
1828, ch. 52.

His Britannic Majesty and the United States of America, desirous of terminating the war which has unhappily subsisted between the two countries, and of restoring, upon principles of perfect reciprocity, peace, friendship, and good understanding between them, have, for that purpose, appointed their respective plenipotentiaries, that is to say: His Britannic Majesty, on his part, has appointed the right honorable James Lord Gambier, late admiral of the white, now admiral of the red squadron of His Majesty's fleet, Henry Goulburn Esquire, a member of the Imperial Parliament, and under Secretary of State, and William Adams, Esquire, Doctor of Civil Laws:—And the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof, has appointed John Quincy Adams, James A. Bayard, Henry Clay, Jonathan Russell and Albert Gallatin, citizens of the United States, who, after a reciprocal communication of their respective full powers, have agreed upon the following articles:

ARTICLE THE FIRST.

Firm and in-
violable peace.

Territory, &c.
to be restored,
with exceptions.

Archives and
records to be
restored.

There shall be a firm and universal peace between His Britannic Majesty and the United States, and between their respective countries, territories, cities, towns, and people, of every degree, without exception of places or persons. All hostilities, both by sea and land, shall cease as soon as this treaty shall have been ratified by both parties, as hereinafter mentioned. All territory, places, and possessions whatsoever, taken by either party from the other, during the war, or which may be taken after the signing of this treaty, excepting only the islands hereinafter mentioned, shall be restored without delay, and without causing any destruction, or carrying away any of the artillery or other public property originally captured in the said forts or places, and which shall remain therein upon the exchange of the ratifications of this treaty, or any slaves or other private property. And all archives, records, deeds, and papers, either of a public nature, or belonging to private persons, which, in the course of the war, may have fallen into the hands of the officers of either party, shall be, as far as may be practicable, forthwith restored and delivered to the proper authorities and persons to whom they respectively belong. Such of the islands in the Bay of Passama-

(a) See notes of the treaties and conventions between the United States and Great Britain, ante, p. 54.

5. What nations does this document involve and what was its significance?

6. What is the name of this document?

7. Summarize what led to the ending of the War of 1812?

You are now ready to write an essay to answer the following question:

Why is the War of 1812 sometimes called the second war for American independence, and what do you think the war accomplished?

Rubric

406 Assessing Historical Knowledge

Subjects: Social studies **# of scales** 1

Grade(s) Not specified **# Scale length** 5

Holistic Scale

5 § Offers accurate, comprehensive and complete analysis of the information and issues.

§ Provides a variety of facts to explore major and minor issues.

§ Extensively uses previous historical knowledge to provide an in-depth understanding of the problem and to relate it to past and future situations.

4 § Concise, accurate analysis of the documents.

§ Facts provided relate the major and minor issues involved.

§ Recalls previous general historical knowledge to examine historical issues.

3 § Relates only major facts to the basic issues with a fair degree of accuracy.

§ Analyzes information to explain at least one issue with essential support.

§ Uses general ideas from previous historical knowledge with a fair degree of accuracy.

2 § Provides only basic facts with only some degree of accuracy.

§ Refers to information to explain at least one issue or concept in general terms.

§ Limited use of previous historical knowledge with only limited accuracy.

§ Major reliance on the information provided from text.

1 § Repeats one or two facts without complete accuracy.

§ Deals only briefly and vaguely with concepts or issues.

§ Indicates little or no previous historical knowledge.

§ Relies heavily on the information provided.

