

Study Guide



Chapter 6, Section 4

For use with textbook pages 228–232

THE WAR OF 1812

KEY TERMS AND NAMES

Non-Intercourse Act a law passed to force the British to stop seizing American ships (page 229)

War Hawks those who supported war with Britain (page 229)

Tecumseh a Shawnee leader who worked for Native American resistance against encroachment on Native American lands (page 229)

William Henry Harrison governor of the Indiana Territory (page 229)

Oliver Perry commodore whose ships attacked the British fleet on Lake Erie (page 231)

Hartford Convention a meeting that called for constitutional amendments to increase New England's political power (page 232)

nationalism feelings of strong patriotism (page 232)

Treaty of Ghent treaty that ended the War of 1812 (page 232)

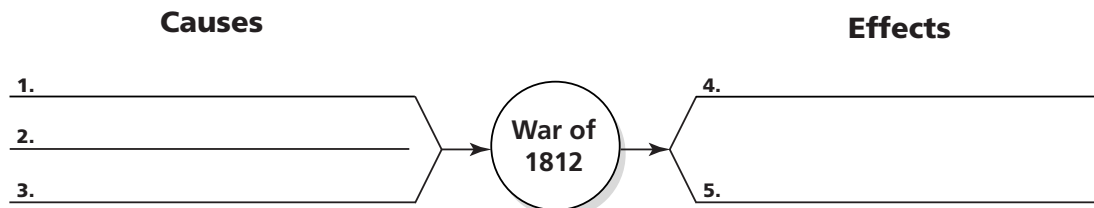
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

What does “neutrality” mean? Do you think the United States today could remain neutral in foreign affairs? Why or why not?

The last section described the challenges facing President Jefferson’s administration. This section discusses the events that led to war with Great Britain and the effects of the war.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the cause-and-effect diagram to help you take notes. Several factors caused the War of 1812. List the causes and the effects of the War of 1812.



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READ TO LEARN

- **The Decision for War** (page 228)

James Madison, a Republican, won the presidential election in 1808. Like Jefferson, he wanted to avoid war with Britain. To force Britain to stop seizing American ships, he asked Congress to pass the **Non-Intercourse Act**. The act forbade trade with Great Britain and France. The President could reopen trade with whichever country removed its trade restrictions first. Napoleon announced that France would no longer restrict trade, but he did not mention that France would stop the seizure of American ships. Madison accepted the announcement, hoping that this would pressure Britain to stop its trade restrictions. When the British refused, Congress passed a bill to stop imports from Britain.

By 1812 the U.S. refusal to buy British goods was hurting the British economy. In June 1812, Britain agreed to end restrictions on trade. However, the decision came too late, because Congress declared war on Great Britain.

Most members of Congress who voted for war came from the South and the West. They were nicknamed the **War Hawks**. Southern planters and Western farmers made much of their money by shipping their products overseas, and they were hurt by British trade restrictions. Eastern merchants made a profit despite British restrictions because they passed the cost of losing ships and goods onto the farmers. Western farmers also blamed the British for their conflicts with Native Americans.

Native Americans were upset about the increased number of settlers on their lands. **Tecumseh**, a Shawnee leader, believed that they needed to unite to protect their lands. The governor of the Indiana Territory, **William Henry Harrison**, was determined to stop Native American resistance. His troops clashed with the Native Americans near Tippecanoe River, in the Battle of Tippecanoe. Although there was no clear winner, many Native Americans fled to Canada, which was held by the British. This led many Americans to believe that the British were helping the Native Americans.

Many Americans believed that going to war with Britain would help the United States gain Canada and end Native American attacks. President Madison yielded to the pressure and asked Congress to declare war. The South and the West voted for war, and the Northeast did not.

6. What regions supported war with Great Britain?

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- **The Invasion of Canada** (page 230)

Although the United States had declared war, it was not ready to fight. The country did not have enough troops or equipment. It also did not have the money necessary to fight a war. Despite these problems, President Madison ordered the military to invade Canada. However, the plan to invade from three directions failed.

The United States had more success on the sea. Under the command of Commodore **Oliver Perry**, the U.S. fleet attacked the British fleet on Lake Erie in September 1813. After a four-hour battle, the British surrendered. This victory gave the United States control of Lake Erie, but by the end of 1813, the United States had still not conquered Canada.

7. Why was the United States not ready to fight a war with Britain?

- **The War Ends** (page 231)

In 1814 the war between Britain and France ended. Britain now turned its attention on the United States by planning a three-part strategy. One involved attacking cities along the coast. Another involved cutting New England off from the rest of the country. The third part involved seizing New Orleans and cutting off the Mississippi River from western farmers.

The British attacked Washington, D.C. They set fire to the White House and the Capitol. They then moved to Baltimore, but the militia there was ready for them, and the British abandoned their plan to attack the city. The British plan to cut New England off from the rest of the country also failed.

The British offensive against the United States made New England even more opposed to the war. Some New England Federalists met in Hartford, Connecticut, to talk about what the region could do independently of the United States. The **Hartford Convention** called for several amendments to the constitution to increase the region's political power.

Then in January 1815, American troops under the command of General Andrew Jackson defeated the British in the Battle of New Orleans. The victory made Jackson a national hero and strengthened **nationalism**, or feelings of strong patriotism, in the nation. The Federalists lost popularity, and within a few years the party dissolved.

In 1814 the **Treaty of Ghent** ended the War of 1812. It did not change most existing conditions, but it did increase the nation's prestige overseas and started a wave of patriotism and national unity.

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8. Why was the Battle of New Orleans important?
