

MAJOR BATTLES OF THE WAR OF 1812

- (1) During the War of 1812, the small American navy, with the help of many privateers, attacked British shipping and seized or destroyed more than a thousand ships. The Americans won some key victories at sea in the first year of the war. In one of the most famous battles, the U.S. warship "Constitution" sank the British "Guerriere" in a two-hour duel off the coast of Nova Scotia. The "Constitution" earned the nickname "Old Ironsides" when British cannonballs bounced from its thickly timbered hull. Eventually, however, the powerful British navy took control of the sea, set up a blockade along the Atlantic coast, and cut off American trade with other countries.

On the map:

- (a) Next to Nova Scotia print 1812: The "Constitution" defeats the "Guerriere." Color the battle symbol to show an American victory. (Note: Use this same color throughout the map exercise for all American victories, and a second color for British victories. Put these two colors in the map key.)
- (b) Next to the line of ships along the Atlantic coast print 1813: British establish a blockade.
- (2) One of the objectives of the United States was to capture British Canada. In 1812 three invasions of Canada were attempted, but each was unsuccessful. The first campaign ended with the surrender of Detroit after Ohio and Michigan militia were slow to reinforce an American army. Great Britain's Indian allies, led by Tecumseh, captured Fort Dearborn (now Chicago) soon after taking Detroit. The second and third invasions failed because the New York militia refused to cross into Canada and help the regular American army.

On the map:

- (a) Next to Detroit print 1812: British capture Detroit. Color the battle symbol to show a British victory.
- (b) Next to Fort Dearborn print 1812: Tecumseh takes Fort Dearborn. Color the battle symbol to show a British victory.
- (3) American fortunes improved in 1813. York (now Toronto) was captured and held for a short time. A number of public buildings were burned. Captain Oliver H. Perry destroyed the British fleet on Lake Erie, which forced the British to leave Detroit. As the British and Indians retreated into Canada, General William Henry Harrison defeated them at the Battle of the Thames. Tecumseh was killed, causing the Indians to end their support for the British. But near the end of 1813, the British struck back. They seized Fort Niagara, and burned Buffalo and neighboring villages.

On the map:

- (a) Next to York print 1813: Americans burn York. Color the battle symbol to show an American victory.
- (b) At the western end of Lake Erie print 1813: Oliver H. Perry wins the Battle of Lake Erie. Color the battle symbol to show an American victory.
- (c) Next to the battle symbol above Lake Erie print 1813: U.S. wins the Battle of the Thames. Color the battle symbol.
- (d) Next to Buffalo print 1813: British burn Buffalo. Color the battle symbol to represent a British victory.
- (4) After Napoleon's defeat in Europe, Great Britain sent 18,000 veteran troops to Canada. U.S. forces were defeated at the Battle of Lundy's Lane. A British army occupied Washington, D.C., and burned the Capitol and other public buildings. But their attack on Fort McHenry, which protected Baltimore, was unsuccessful. The British tried to invade northern New York State, but were turned back at the Battle of Lake Champlain. The final battle of the war was fought at New Orleans before word of the signing of the Treaty of Ghent reached North America. General Andrew Jackson, with American artillery and sharpshooting riflemen, won a great victory.

On the map:

- (a) Next to the battle symbol across the Niagara River from Buffalo print 1814: Battle of Lundy's Lane. Color the battle symbol to show a British victory.
- (b) Next to the battle symbol in northern New York print 1814: Battle of Lake Champlain turns back British invasion. Color the battle symbol to show an American victory.
- (c) Next to Washington, D.C., print 1814: British burn Washington. Color the battle symbol to show a British victory.
- (d) Next to Baltimore print 1814: British fail to capture Fort McHenry. Francis Scott Key writes the "Star-Spangled Banner." Color the battle symbol to show an American victory.
- (e) Next to New Orleans print 1815: General Andrew Jackson defeats the British. Color the battle symbol to represent an American victory.

