

THE WAR OF 1812

I. **True-False.** Place a **T** for true statements and an **F** for false statements. (1 point each)

1. ___ There was no way in which the United States could have prevented its involvement in the War of 1812.
2. ___ As part of its strategy in the War of 1812, American troops invaded Canada, 1812-1813.
3. ___ As part of its strategy in the War of 1812, British troops invaded New England, Louisiana, and the Washington, D. C. area, 1814-1815.
4. ___ The most likely reason for the British defeat at the Battle of New Orleans was that American troops were located in a better position for defense.
5. ___ The British won the War of 1812.
6. ___ Many years after the Battle of New Orleans, the Place d'Armes area in New Orleans was renamed Claiborne Square.

II. **Multiple Choice.** Place the correct answer in the following blanks. (1 point each)

1. ___ Which of the following two countries **most** interfered with United States trade on the Atlantic Ocean during the period between 1798 and 1812:

A. Spain and Russia	C. France and Spain
B. Britain and Spain	D. Britain and France
2. ___ Which of the following events occurred **first**:

A. the Louisiana Purchase	C. the War of 1812
B. the French Revolution	D. the Battle of New Orleans
3. ___ Which of the following events occurred **last**:

A. the signing of the Treaty of Ghent	C. the Battle of New Orleans
B. the Louisiana Purchase	D. the French Revolution
4. ___ The **major** cause for the United States going to war in 1812 was:

A. British interference with United States trade
B. Native American control of the Florida Territory
C. French interference with United States trade
D. Spanish control of the Louisiana territory
5. ___ Which of the following **best** describes what happened to many Native Americans in the Old Southwest Territory during the War of 1812:

A. They won back much of their land that had been lost to the Americans.
B. They allied with the British during the war, but were defeated by American troops.
C. They allied with the Americans during the war, but were defeated by British troops.
D. They became an independent nation within the United States.

6. ____ Which of the following is a provision in the United States Constitution that allows a government leader to restrict basic rights in time of war or civil disorder:
- A. laissez-faire
B. Magna Carta
C. oligarchy
D. martial law
7. ____ The “Star-Spangled Banner” was written during the British attack on:
- A. Plattsburgh, New York
B. Washington, D. C.
C. New Orleans, Louisiana
D. Fort McHenry, Maryland
8. ____ Which of the following was the **most** important reason why the British decided to attack New Orleans:
- A. the economic wealth present in New Orleans
B. the weak position of Andrew Jackson’s army
C. the location of New Orleans on the Mississippi River
D. the presence of large numbers of Native Americans in Louisiana who were pro-British

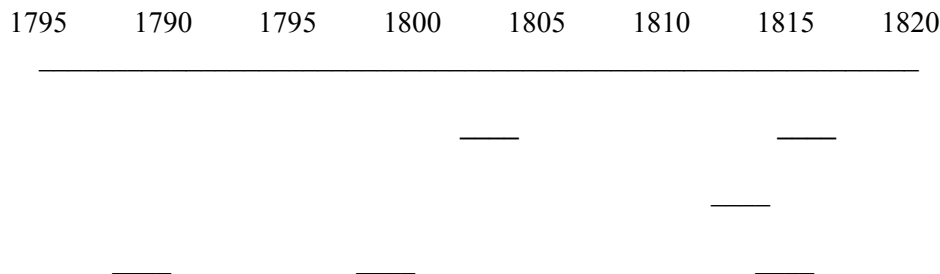
III. **Matching.** (1 point each)

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| ____ Leader of the Baratarian Pirates | A. Napoleon |
| ____ Commanding general of the Americans at the Battle of New Orleans | B. Tecumseh |
| ____ Governor of Louisiana, 1812-1816 | C. Edward Packenham |
| ____ President of the United States, 1809-1817 | D. Francis Scott Key |
| ____ Leader of British troops at the Battle of New Orleans | E. William C. C. Claiborne |
| ____ Leader of France, 1799-1815 | F. James Madison |
| ____ Leader of Native Americans in the Mississippi Valley during the early 1800’s | G. Jean Lafitte |
| ____ Author of “The Star-Spangled Banner” | H. Andrew Jackson |

IV. **Time Line of 1785—1820.** (2 points each)

Place the letter in front of each of the following events in the blanks on the time line below.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| A. Battle of New Orleans | D. Napoleon became the leader of France |
| B. Signing of the Treaty of Ghent | E. French Revolution |
| C. Louisiana Purchase | F. United States declared war on Britain |



V. **Maps.** (2 points for each answer)

Label the following on the above map of the War of 1812: (2 points each)

Battle Sites:

Plattsburgh
Washington, D. C.
Fort McHenry
New Orleans

Battle Areas:

Louisiana
New England
Spanish Florida
Mississippi River
Canada

Label the following on the above map of Louisiana during the War of 1812: (2 points each)

Sites:

Rodriguez Canal
New Orleans
Villere Plantation/Chalmette

Areas:

Mississippi River
Lake Borgne
Gulf of Mexico

VI. **Using Primary Documents.** Name the following documents that deal with events in the War of 1812. (2 points each)

“The eighth of January,
Before the break of day,
Our raw and hasty levies
Were brought into array.

And there we stood in silence,
And waited with a frown.
To greet with bloody welcome
The bull-dogs of the Crown.”

“And the rockets’ red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro’ the night that our flag was still there.”

VII. **Listing.** (2 points for each answer)

1. List three reasons why the United States entered the War of 1812.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

2. List two ways in which geography influenced the American and British armies at the Battle of New Orleans.

A. _____

B. _____

VIII. **Discussion.** Answer the following in complete sentences. (3 points for each answer)

Briefly describe how the British and Americans did at **two** of the following battle sites during the War of 1812. **Write your selections in the blanks above each question.**

- ◆ Canada
- ◆ New England

- ◆ Washington, D. C.
- ◆ New Orleans

Selection Number 1: _____

The British: _____

The Americans: _____

* * * * *

Selection Number 2: _____

The British: _____

The Americans: _____

V. Maps.

War of 1812. (2 points for each answer for a total of **18 points** on this map)

Louisiana During the War of 1812. (2 points for each answer for a total of **12 points** on this map)

Answers are provided on attached maps.

VI. Using Primary Documents. (2 points each for a total of **4 points** on this section)

“The Battle of New Orleans”

“The Star-Spangled Banner”

VII. Listing. (2 points for each answer for a total of **10 points** on this section)

1. List three reasons why the United States entered the War of 1812.

Possible answers:

British interference with American trade on the Atlantic

British violation of American neutrality during the Napoleonic Wars

British impressment of American sailors

British incitement of Native Americans in U. S. territory

The influence of the War Hawks on U. S. foreign policy after 1810

Strong nationalist feelings in America in the early 1800's

2. List two ways in which geography influenced the American and British armies at the Battle of New Orleans.

Possible answers, but not limited to these only:

Poorly drawn and available maps of Louisiana hampered British efforts.

Locals from the New Orleans area had a distinct home advantage.

The presence of numerous bayous and other waterways helped the British to move toward New Orleans largely undetected.

The presence of numerous waterways gave the Americans the opportunity to meet the British at a place of their own choosing.

The flat, marshy battleground in Chalmette hampered British efforts to march in European formation.

The terrain of the battleground assisted the Americans in putting up a strong defense against the advancing British troops.

The location of New Orleans on the Mississippi River and below sea level made it nearly impossible to defend the city itself against a frontal assault.

The location of New Orleans made it imperative that the defense take place at a location below the city to insure its success.

The presence of numerous waterways surrounding the city made it easier for the British to advance on the city by boat.

VIII. Discussion. (3 points for each answer, for a total of **12 points** on this section)

Possible answers by topics selected:

Canada

The British: The British lost pieces of territory in Canada, but maintained control of Montreal and the fortress of Quebec, and were never in serious jeopardy of losing Canada to the Americans. The Canadian people rallied to the British cause and never seriously considered supporting the Americans or becoming part of the U. S.

The Americans: The Americans made several half-hearted attempts to take control of Canada in 1812-13, but were unable to lead a determined attack that resulted in significant gains of Canadian territory or a decisive battle on Canadian soil. However, the Americans were able to seize and burn the provincial capital of York in 1813. American troops were poorly trained, armed, and led in attacks on Canada.

New England

The British: British troops launched an attack from Canada into New England in 1814, and were halted by American troops at Plattsburgh, NY. British ships were halted by the Americans on Lake Champlain, resulting in the decision of the British to end their attack on New England.

The Americans: The Americans halted British troops at Plattsburgh, NY, and a British naval detachment on Lake Champlain, convincing the British to end their New England campaign. The attack on northern New England, as well as the British blockade along the Atlantic coastline of the U. S., encouraged a movement by New England Federalists to try to leave the Union if the war was continued.

Washington, D. C.

The British: British ships landed troops in Maryland, where they defeated a defending American army at Bladensburg, MD, seized Washington, D.C., and burned several government buildings. They then marched on Fort McHenry near Baltimore, where they launched a rocket attack against the fort that resulted in Francis Scott Key's writing of "The Star-Spangled Banner." British troops reboarded their ships and sailed away following their failure to reduce Fort McHenry.

The Americans: The Americans were decisively defeated at Bladensburg and fled before the British army, leaving Washington, D.C. undefended. The city was seized by the British and several

public buildings were burned, including the White House. However, Americans successfully defended Fort McHenry, convincing the British to spare Baltimore and to withdraw from the Chesapeake Bay area.

New Orleans.

The British: British ships sailed from the Gulf of Mexico through Lake Borgne and landed troops at the Villere Plantation in Chalmette, south of New Orleans. After several days of trying to dislodge Americans behind their fortifications in Chalmette, the British launched a frontal attack against American lines and were decisively defeated on January 8, 1815. This British defeat came two weeks following the signing of the Treaty of Ghent, ending the War of 1812.

The Americans: New Orleans was defended at Chalmette below the city by a coalition of American volunteer troops, Native Americans, white and African American Louisianians, and Baratarian pirates under the command of Andrew Jackson. On January 8, 1815, this force decisively defeated the British troops advancing on them, resulting in over 2,000 British casualties, including the death of their commander, Sir Edward Packenham.