

# War of 1812

Background

**READ:** In the War of 1812, the United States took on the greatest naval power in the world, Great Britain. Causes of the war included British attempts to restrict U.S. trade, the British Royal Navy’s impressment of American seamen and America’s desire to expand its territory. The United States suffered many costly defeats at the hands of British, Canadian and Native American troops over the course of the War of 1812, including the capture and burning of the nation’s capital, Washington, D.C., in August 1814. Nonetheless, American troops were able to reject British invasions in New York, Baltimore and New Orleans, boosting national confidence and fostering a new spirit of patriotism. The ratification of the Treaty of Ghent on February 17, 1815, ended the war but left many of the most contentious questions unresolved. Nonetheless, many in the United States celebrated the War of 1812 as a “second war of independence,” resulting in an increase of patriotism, weakening of Native American resistance, and growth of manufacturing.

## OVERVIEW

1. Who was the war between?

3. What did the war result in?

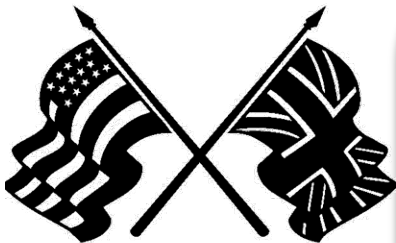
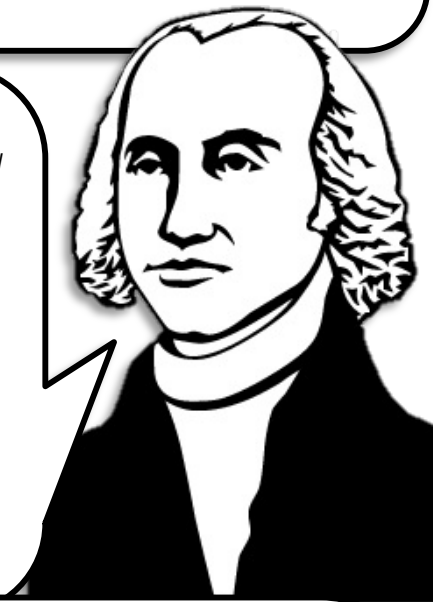
2. What years did the war take place?

*We behold our seafaring citizens still the daily victims of lawless violence, committed on the great common and highway of nations, even within sight of the country which owes them protection. We behold our vessels, freighted with the products of our soil and industry, or returning with the honest proceeds of them, wrested from their lawful destinations, confiscated by prize courts no longer the organs of public law but the instruments of arbitrary edicts, and their unfortunate crews dispersed and lost, or forced or inveigled in British ports into British fleets,*  
 President James Madison’s War Message to Congress, June 1, 1812.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION

4. . Cite 3 reasons why America went to war with Great Britain.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_



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.  
 Treaty of Ghent – ended the War of 1812.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

5. According to the treaty who gained territory as a result of the war?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Did a side win the war?

\_\_\_\_\_



War of 1812 Crash Course video

# Star Spangled Banner

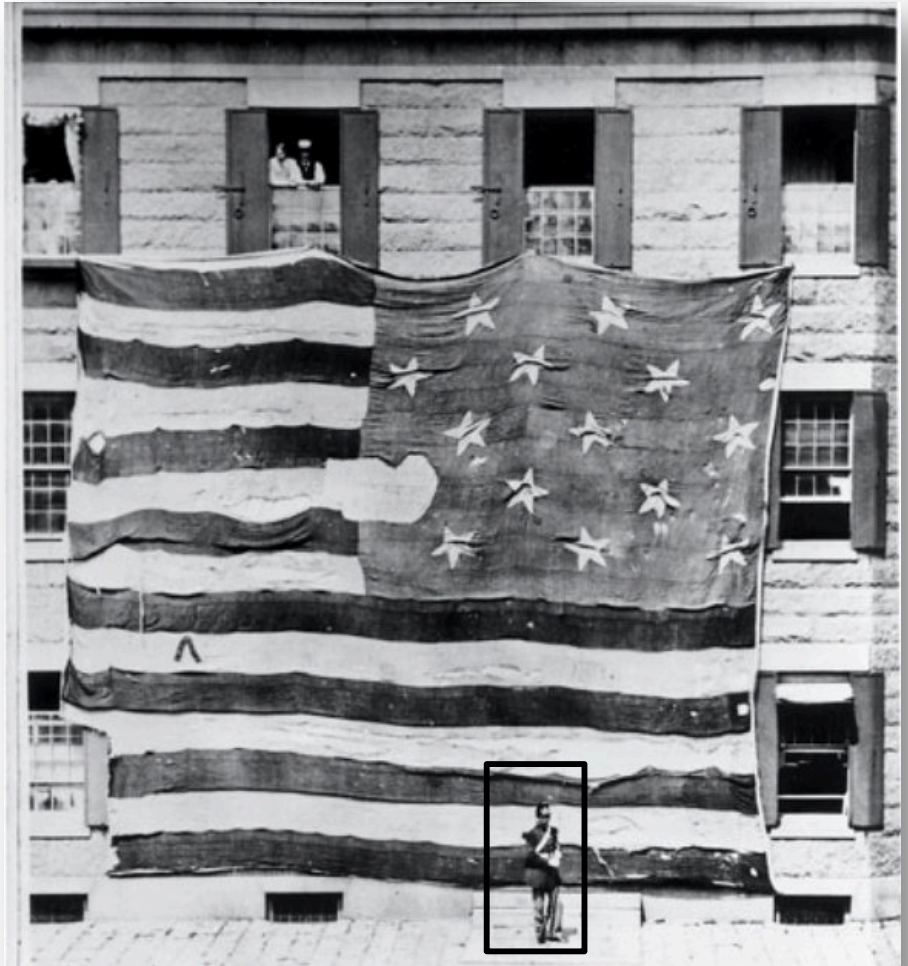
in 1814, Francis Scott Key pens a poem which is later set music and in 1931 becomes America's national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner." The poem, originally titled "The Defence of Fort McHenry," was written after Key witnessed the Maryland fort being bombarded by the British during the War of 1812. Key was inspired by the sight of a lone U.S. flag still flying over Fort McHenry at daybreak, as reflected in the now-famous words of the "Star-Spangled Banner."

## Lyrics

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's  
early light  
What so proudly we hailed at the  
twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright  
stars thru the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched were  
so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare, the  
bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that  
our flag was still there.  
Oh, say does that star-spangled  
banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the  
home of the brave?



Info on the Battle of  
Baltimore



The flag that was flown over Fort McHenry was huge! The dimensions were 30 by 42 feet & intended to fly from a flagpole about ninety feet high.  
Each star is about 2 feet across.

1. What message do you think America was trying to send to the British by flying such a large flag?

2. RESEARCH the BATTLE OF BALTIMORE then answer the question:  
In what ways do the lyrics of "The Star-Spangled Banner" reflect actual events?