

Viewing Guide: First Invasion: The War of 1812

Directions: While watching the video, answer the following questions

1. What were the main issues which led to James Madison's Declaration of War in 1812?
2. What was impressment and why do you think it became such an issue between the U.S. and Great Britain?
3. Why did the New England Federalists oppose the war? How did this opposition play into later events in the war?
4. In what ways was the United States military unprepared for war as they took on the British in Canada?
5. The burning of Washington was a pivotal event in the War of 1812. How did Dolly Madison and Stephen Pleasonton help "save" the nation's history?
6. Though the War of 1812 was fought by men, women contributed to the war effort in several ways discussed in the documentary. What are some of the contributions women made to the war?
7. Why was the death of Robert Ross such a critical loss for the British?
8. What did the flag at Fort McHenry symbolize to Francis Scott Key? Were you surprised by the United States' victory?
9. The Treaty of Ghent was brokered in 1814, yet the war went on. What miscommunication led to the extension of the war to New Orleans?
10. What kind of methods did General Andrew Jackson use to fortify New Orleans in the military battle against the British?
11. Who do you think were the heroes of the War of 1812?
12. What do you think the long-term ramifications of the war were for the United States and for the British?
13. Why do you think the War of 1812 has been referred to as "America's Forgotten War"? Why should it be studied and remembered today?