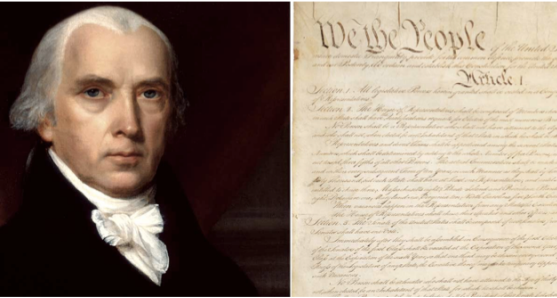


**SSUSH6: ANALYZE THE CHALLENGES FACED BY THE FIRST FIVE PRESIDENTS AND HOW THEY RESPONDED.**



***ELEMENT D:*** Explain James Madison's Presidency in relation to the War of 1812 and the war's significance in the development of a national identity.

# James Madison's Presidency



- ❑ James Madison had many roles in the development of the United States.
  - He was the principal author of the United States Constitution and contributed essays to the Federalist Papers supporting ratification.
  - Madison also served as Thomas Jefferson's Secretary of State.
- ❑ When Madison was elected, foreign policy and the mounting tension with Great Britain were critical issues that required his attention.
  - The challenge he faced was how to avoid another costly war with Great Britain but still increase the United States' economic growth through international trade.
  - Britain and France had been at war since 1789.
    - Americans were often caught in the middle as British and French naval forces seized American ships and crews.
    - Earlier Presidents were able to steer a middle course and avoid a declared war in Europe by using diplomacy and attempting embargos.
    - However, renewed warfare in 1809 intensified tensions between the British and the United States.
- ❑ On June 12, 1812, President Madison asked for a war declaration from Congress. The War of 1812 officially began.

## The War of 1812



# War of 1812

❑ Madison cited four reasons for the United States' declaration of war against Great Britain.

1. First, Americans objected to restrictions Britain was enforcing to prevent neutral American merchants from trading with the French.

2. Second, Americans were outraged by the British policy of impressment.

- Under this policy, thousands of American sailors were forced against their will to serve in the British navy after their merchant ships were captured at sea.

3. Third, the British refused to turn over fortifications along the Great Lakes as required by the 1783 Treaty of Paris.

- Americans suspected the British were using these British-held sites to give support to American Indians as they continued to fight to keep Americans from settling lands west of the Appalachian Mountains.

4. The fourth reason Madison gave for declaring war was that Americans wished to drive the British out of North America altogether by conquering Canada while the British army was fighting the French in Europe.

- The war declaration came at a time when the young United States was not financially or militarily prepared to fight.
- The Democratic-Republicans had scaled back the federal government and its budget, which meant the military had also been reduced during the Jefferson administration.
- At the time of the war declaration in 1812, the United States army was made up of only about 3,000 soldiers who were not equipped or trained to fight effectively in battle.
- The American navy was in a little better condition than the army and had some small initial successes at the beginning of the War of 1812.



# War of 1812



- ❑ There were essentially three fronts to the war, which lasted until early 1815.
  1. There was a naval conflict in the Atlantic and Chesapeake Bay off the coast of Virginia.
  2. Another important theater of war was on the United States' northern border with Canada.
  3. The final area of fighting was in the south and ended with the Battle of New Orleans.
- ❑ Although there were very few military successes throughout the course of the war, the United States did not lose any territory to the British and America's army and navy gained respect because they had stood up to Europe's most powerful nation.
- ❑ The outcome of the War of 1812 also ended all hopes American Indians had of driving the Americans out of the Ohio Valley.

# War of 1812

❑ There were two notable victories for the American forces.



1. The Battle at Fort McHenry in Baltimore was the subject of Francis Scott Key's poem, the Star Spangled Banner, which was later set to music and became the national anthem.
2. The most decisive American victory in the War of 1812 actually came after the Treaty of Ghent had been signed to end the war.



- The delayed communication across the Atlantic Ocean meant that no one in North America knew that the war was over.
- The Treaty of Ghent was signed on December 24, 1814 and the Battle of New Orleans began on January 8, 1815.
- General Andrew Jackson led the American forces. The battle was an overwhelming victory for the United States and made General Jackson a national hero.
- The British suffered a devastating casualty count of over 2,400 compared to American casualties of approximately 300.

❑ The victory in the Battle of New Orleans created the illusion that the United States won the War of 1812 outright even though the conflict actually ended with a negotiated settlement prior to General Jackson's great success on the battlefield.

# Significance of War of 1812

- ❑ Some long-term effects of the War of 1812 include a change in the political dynamics of the United States and the emergence of a new national identity.
  - Politically, the war marked the end of the Federalist Party because they had failed to support the call to a popular war.
    - The Federalists were highly concerned that war with Great Britain would be unwise because of the danger it would pose to United States' trade exports.
  - Instead of hurting the economy, the war served to stimulate America's economic growth.
    - Due to the British blockade of America's coast, manufacturing began to quickly develop in the United States.
  - The war also ended any further military hostility between the United States and Great Britain.
- ❑ A new American identity also developed as a result of the War of 1812.
  - Americans had fought the British twice and were still an independent nation.
  - A belief began to emerge in North America, as well as Europe, that the United States was not an experiment in self-government that would eventually be subsumed by Britain or some other European power.
    - Instead, the United States was a nation that had transitioned from a young and vulnerable situation to one of strength and viability.
    - While the Treaty of Ghent was a negotiated settlement and not truly a victory for the United States, the War of 1812 still boosted the confidence of Americans and set the stage for significant territorial and economic growth.
- ❑ James Madison faced the challenge of war with Britain and emerged with bright prospects for the future.

