The War of 1812

“Second American Revolution”
Essential Question

Why do Historians refer to the War of 1812 as the Second American Revolution?
A. Causes of the War

1. Impressment
   a. Britain and France were fighting a war in Europe
   b. Britain began capturing American sailors and “impressing” them, or forcing them to work on British ships
   c. By 1807, Britain had seized more than 1,000 American ships
2. Embargo Act of 1807
   a. President Jefferson convinced Congress to declare an embargo
   b. Jefferson believed the embargo would hurt Britain, but it really hurt America
   c. In 1809, Congress ended the embargo with all countries except Britain and France
3. America’s Desire for Canada
   a. Americans saw that Canada was not well-defended by Britain
   b. Americans wanted more land and believed that people in Canada would want to join the United States
Tensions Between US and Natives

A. In the **Northwest Territory**, settlers clashed with **Native Americans**, including the Shawnee leader, Tecumseh.

B. In 1809, **William Henry Harrison**, the governor of Indiana, held a meeting with Native American leaders.

C. He **convinced those present to turn over three million acres of tribal land to the U.S. government.**

A. **Tecumseh** made no agreement with Harrison.

B. He did not want to surrender the Shawnee’s tribal lands.

C. **Tecumseh also declared the treaties invalid** because they had not been signed by true tribal leaders.
B. The War Hawks

1. A group of Republican Congressmen from the South and West

2. Wanted war against Britain

3. Led by Senator John C. Calhoun of South Carolina and Henry Clary of Kentucky
C. Election of 1808

1. James Madison, a Democratic-Republican, won

2. In the Spring of 1812, Madison decided to go to war against Britain
D. The War in Canada

1. Americans were unprepared for war

2. The British captured Detroit and the Americans failed to capture Canada

3. Many Native Americans helped the British because they wanted to stop Americans from taking more land
E. The War at Sea

1. The U.S. Navy was young and outnumbered

2. In November of 1812, the British blockaded the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays

3. The blockade grew throughout the war

4. By 1813, most American ships were unable to leave their ports
F. The War on Land

1. Battle for Washington
   a. The British invaded Washington, D.C. in 1814
   b. British soldiers burned the Capitol, the White House, and other public buildings
   c. Before the British burned the White House, Dolley Madison saved a famous painting of George Washington

   [Image of Dolley Madison]
[T]hey proceeded, without a moment's delay, to burn and destroy everything in the most distant degree connected with government. In this general devastation were included the Senate House, the President's palace, an extensive dockyard and arsenal, barracks for two or three thousand men, several large storehouses filled with naval and military stores, some hundreds of cannon of different descriptions, and nearly twenty thousand stand of small arms.
2. Battle at Fort McHenry
   a. **Francis Scott Key**: an American lawyer and prisoner of the British
   b. Saw an American flag flying over Ft. McHenry after the battle
   c. The flag inspired Key to write “The Star-Spangled Banner”
THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

O! 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 through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming.
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O! say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Words by Francis Scott Key, from "Defense of Fort McHenry", his poem written in 1814 by after witnessing the bombardment of Fort McHenry by the British Royal Navy ships in Chesapeake Bay during the Battle of Fort McHenry in the War of 1812.

These lyrics by Francis Scott Key provided courtesy of Music-for-Music-Teachers.com
G. The Battle of New Orleans (1815)

1. The most famous/important battle of the War

2. Americans were lead to victory by General Andrew Jackson

3. The battle continued even after the war ended because word did not reach the Americans for several weeks
H. The Treaty of Ghent

1. In December, 1815, British and Americans met in Ghent, Belgium to negotiate a peace treaty.

2. Results of the war:
   a. Britain and American became better allies.
   b. America gained respect from other countries.