

Study Guide



Chapter 9, Section 4

For use with textbook pages 296–300

THE WAR OF 1812

KEY TERMS

<i>frigate</i>	Warship (page 297)
<i>privateer</i>	Armed private ship (page 297)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Do you know the words to our country's national anthem? Who wrote the words? Why were the words written?

In the last section, you read about the events that led to the War of 1812. This section focuses on the events of the War of 1812 and how the war affected the United States.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about which country was better prepared militarily during the War of 1812.

Where the Fighting Took Place During the War of 1812		
United States	Canada	At Sea
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.		3.
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		

Study Guide



Chapter 9, Section 4 (continued)

READ TO LEARN

- **War Begins** (pages 296–298)

When Jefferson was elected, the Republican government reduced the size and power of the military. The United States was not prepared for the size and strength of British forces and their Native American allies. General William Hull led American troops from Detroit to Canada. Fearing a massacre when they saw Tecumseh and his warriors, they surrendered Detroit to the British. Oliver Hazard Perry and Lake Erie naval forces defeated a British naval force and took control of Lake Erie. This was a strategic victory for the United States. General William Henry Harrison and his troops cut off the British and their Native American allies when they tried to pull out of the Detroit area. Tecumseh was killed in the Battle of the Thames. Americans also attacked the town of York in present-day Toronto.

The American navy had fewer warships, or *frigates*, than the British, but they had three of the fastest frigates on the seas. One of these, the *Constitution*, destroyed three British ships. It was nicknamed “Old Ironsides” when a shell bounced off its hull. In addition to American naval warships, the United States relied on the help of private armed ships, or *privateers*, to attack and capture British ships.

In 1813 the Native American confederation died with the death of Tecumseh. Andrew Jackson defeated the Creeks in the Mississippi Territory in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. The Creeks gave up most of their land to the United States.

1. Why did the United States rely on privateers during the War of 1812?

- **The British Offensive** (pages 298–300)

In the spring of 1814, the British won the war with France. Without having to divide their military resources between two wars, the British could devote more forces to the war with the United States. British forces moved in on Washington, D.C., and burned the president’s mansion and Capitol, as well as everything else connected with the government.

The British then headed for Baltimore where Americans had blocked the roads and blocked the harbor. British troops were attacked from Fort McHenry in the harbor and prevented them from entering the town. After witnessing this battle, Francis Scott Key wrote a poem called “The Star-Spangled Banner,” which later became the national anthem of the United States.

Study Guide



Chapter 9, Section 4 (continued)

In spite of every military advantage, the British were defeated in the Battle of Plattsburgh in New York State. This victory protected the northern boundary of the United States. After this loss, the British decided they had little to gain from war with the United States.

The Treaty of Ghent, signed by American and British representatives in Ghent, Belgium, in December 1814, ended the war. Two events that led up to the War of 1812, impressment and neutral rights, were not mentioned in the treaty.

Again, news of the treaty traveled slowly across the ocean. One last battle took place in New Orleans after the treaty was signed. American forces led by Andrew Jackson defeated the British as they moved toward New Orleans. The Battle of New Orleans made Jackson a hero and paved the way for his presidency in 1828.

New England Federalists opposed the war all along. They held the Hartford Convention in Connecticut in December 1814 as the Treaty of Ghent was being signed. They wrote a list of grievances, or complaints, and proposed amendments they wanted added to the Constitution. Their actions backfired when news of the Treaty of Ghent and the victory at New Orleans was received. The Federalist Party was considered unpatriotic by many Americans. Many New Englanders joined the new spirit of nationalism, or devotion to one's country. The War Hawks who supported trade, westward expansion, a strong military, and increased economic development, took over the leadership of the Republican Party.

2. What were the results of the British invasions in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore?
