



Learning on the Great Lakes Seaway Trail

One of America's Byways

Lesson Plan #2 – Battles of War of 1812

Subject: Social Studies

Grade: 4-6

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Anticipatory Set:

Review with the students the people in the War of 1812.

New York State Standards:

Standard 1.1, 1.2 - History of the United States and New York

Standard 2.1, 2.2 – World History

Standard 4.1, 4.2 4.3 – Economics

Standard 5 – Civics, Citizenship, and Government

Objectives:

Students will know about the number of battles that took place in War of 1812 by researching information and presenting their findings.

Purpose:

Students will learn about the battles and their outcomes during the War of 1812.

Summary:

The Seaway Trail and the War of 1812

During the War of 1812 there were a number of events that occurred along the Seaway Trail in New York. The action during the War of 1812 took place on four major fronts: Lake Erie and the Niagara Frontier, Lake Ontario, the eastern shore of Lake Ontario, and along the St. Lawrence River.

Region 1: Lake Erie and the Niagara Frontier

Oliver Hazard Perry commanded the U.S. Naval forces on Lake Erie and was successful in routing British ships from it. Land sites, particularly the Black Rock Navy Yard, were active with shipbuilding throughout the war.

Region 2: Lake Ontario

The British Royal Navy launched many coastal raids along the shoreline to disrupt the U.S. war effort. Commodore Isaac Chauncey caused a powerful fleet to be built at Sackets Harbor for the purpose of controlling Lake Ontario. The end result was a tit-for-tat shipbuilding marathon with Great Britain. By the war's end, some of the largest ships in the U.S. and British Navies were prowling Lake Ontario.

Region 3: Eastern Shore of Lake Ontario

From Oswego to Cape Vincent, the eastern shore of Lake Ontario was an area where numerous battles were played out between the United States versus the British and Canadians. Indians of various tribes fought on both sides.

Region 4: St. Lawrence River

The waterway and the shoreline of the St. Lawrence River saw a great deal of wartime travel. They traveled by boat, across ice either by foot or by horseback. The military



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strategy was who ever controlled the St. Lawrence River also controlled the outcome of the war.

Battles of 1812:

1812:

July 17 - British Capture Fort Mackinac

July 19 – First Battle of Sackets Harbor – The Canadian Provincial Marine Fleet attacked Sackets Harbor but was driven off. They were trying to retrieve a schooner, Lord Nelson that was captured by the Americans for breaking the embargo act.

August 15 – British Capture Fort Dearborn

August 16 Detroit Surrenders – U.S. General Hull took 2500 men to invade Canada, but he and his troops surrendered to Sir Isaac Brock and about 1300 Canadian and Indians.

September 21 - Raid on Gananoque – Captain Benjamin Forsyth and about 70 Riflemen and about 34 state militias went from Sackets Harbor to Cape Vincent then to Gananoque and took all arms, ammunition and provisions back to Sackets Harbor.

October 12 – 13 - Battle of Queenston Heights - General Stephen VanRensselaer and five thousand troops attacked Queenston, Upper Canada. General Sir Isaac Brock arrived from Fort George and led the attack against the Americans. Brock was killed and General Roger Sheaffe arrived with reinforcement to stop the Americans advancement. The British were successful by capturing nine hundred fifty eight Americans and killing or wounding three hundred men. Thirty-four hundred militias refused to leave the U.S. shore to help VanRensselaer's Regulars thus insuring an American defeat.

October 22 – 23 - Attack at St. Regis - American militia from Fort Covington attacked an outpost at St. Regis. They killed an ensign and seven Canadian Voyageurs, captured 23, and confiscated of provisions that were intended as presents for the reservation Indians.

November 11 – Chauncey attacks at Kingston – Commodore Isaac Chauncey's fleet from Sackets Harbor attacked the Canadian Provincial Marine Fleet at Kingston. Chauncey withdrew back to Sackets Harbor without having cleared the British from Lake Ontario.

November 16 – 20 – Canadian Invasion Aborted – General Henry Dearborn and 5000 men moved from Plattsburg to Rouses Point to invade Canada. The militia refused to participate and the invasion was aborted.

1813:

January 22 – Battle of Raisin River – The Canadian militia and the Indians led by Tecumseh accompanied British General Thomas Proctor and his men to attacked U.S. forces under Harrison to recapture Detroit. Almost 200 Americans were killed or wounded and another 750 were captured.

February 22 – Battle of Ogdensburg – A small U.S. detachment had crossed the St. Lawrence River to Elizabethtown on the 6th of February. They released prisoners held by the British and returned to the U.S. shore with captured arms. In retaliation, several hundred British and Canadian crossed the ice-covered river and drove the Americans from Ogdensburg for the remainder of the war.

April 27 May 8 – The Capture of York (Toronto) – Major General Henry Dearborn and Brigadier General Zebulon M. Pike led the army and navy from Sackets Harbor to



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York. The British powder magazine exploded during the battle. Three hundred and twenty five Americans were killed or wounded. General Pike was among the casualties. The U.S. troops burned a number of buildings to avenge Pike's death.

May 13 – Attack at the Port of Charlotte – British attacked the Port of Charlotte.

May 27 – U.S. Forces Capture Fort George – Four thousand U.S. troops from Sackets Harbor and Fort Niagara attacked and captured Fort George.

May 28 – 29 – The Second Battle of Sackets Harbor – The British attacked Sackets Harbor knowing its major offensive forces had been called to attack Fort George. General Jacob Brown and his men defeated the attack, thus earning Brown a Brigadier General's commission in the Regular Army.

June 6 – Stoney Creek – The British counterattacked in retaliation for the May 27 U.S. capture of Fort George. They captured two American Brigadier Generals, William Winder and John Chandler.

June 7 – Battle at Beaver Dam – The Americans had abandoned Forts Erie and Chippewa on the Canadian side of Niagara River and concentrated their forces at Fort George where the British besieged them. In the attempt to break out, a battalion of 540 men tried to reach the British post at Beaver Dam. They were attacked by Indians and surrendered to the British.

September 10 – Battle of Lake Erie – Lt. Oliver Hazard Perry and his fleet dispatched from Sackets Harbor to Lake Erie. They defeated and captured the British fleet on Lake Erie. This led to military operations that forced the British to withdraw from the area south of Lake Erie. This led to the Americans recapturing of Detroit.

October 25 – Battle of Chateaugay – Hampton's invading force entered Canada, but became bogged down in a swamp. After a battle with the French-Canadian militia, Hampton's army abandoned any attempt to join Wilkinson's army on the St. Lawrence River. He left Wilkinson in the lurch and retreated to Plattsburg.

November 11 0 Battle of Chrysler's Farm – Wilkinson. Unaware of Hampton's retreat, moved his 8000 men down the St. Lawrence followed by 900 British Regulars under Colonel J.W. Morrison. The U.S. force landed on the Canadian side of the river to camp for the night. The British, menacing Wilkinson's army, came under attack by the U.S. forces. It was a disastrous, bungling attack. The U.S. force was routed and forced to withdraw to French Mills on the U.S. side of the river. This became the turning point of the war. The U.S. was now unable to seriously conquer Canada.

December 17 – 19 – British Capture Fort Niagara - Following the U.S. burning of the Canadian village, Newark, the British unleashed a fiery attack along the American Niagara Frontier. Their Indian allies attacked the surrounding countryside and the British captured Fort Niagara and remained in their hands for the rest of the war.

December 28 – 30 – British Ravage the Niagara Frontier – The British continued to attack the area by burning the village of Buffalo and destroying the nearby Black Rock Navy Yard.

1814:

March 27 – Battle of Horseshoe Bend – Andrew Jackson and his militia of 2000 men successfully attacked 900 British-allied Creek Indians at the Tallapoosa River, killing



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some 700 men. He was commissioned Major General in the U.S. Army and given command of the Gulf Coast area.

May 5 –7 – Battle of Oswego – A British naval force were seeking to capture supplies and cannons that were destined for a huge new frigate under construction at Sackets Harbor. The new frigate would become the largest ship on the lake. Hoping to intercept the supplies, the British landed and captured the Fort and the town. The naval supplies were stored at Oswego Falls. Unsuccessful and frustrated the British withdrew but maintained a vigil on Lake Ontario.

May 28- 29 – Battle of Sandy Creek – The Americans needed to move the important naval supplies to Sackets Harbor. They moved the supplies from Oswego Falls to Oswego and onto Lake Ontario. The Americans knew the British were looking for them and entered Sandy Creek hoping to move the supplies overland. The Americans opened fire onto the British and the British surrendered 10 minutes later and the supplies were moved onto Sackets Harbor for the new frigate, Superior.

July 2 – 4 Invasion of Canada – General Brown and 3600 troops crossed the Niagara River into Canada to capture Fort Erie.

July 5 – Battle of Chippewa – General Brown and his troop successfully battled 1750 British Regulars who were trying to stop the American invasion.

July 25 – Battle of Lundy's Lane – The U.S. of 2650 men under General Brown continued to move north towards Queenston. Commodore Chauncey, claiming illness at Sackets Harbor, failed to cooperate with General Brown and did not move reinforcements to the Niagara Frontier. British reinforcements from Europe had strengthened the British command to 3000 men. The two forces met at Lundy's Lane and had a five-hour battle that ended in a draw. The Americans fell back to Fort Erie.

August 23 – 25 – British Burn Washington City – The American government fled its capital. The British force of 5000 men burned the White House, then the Capital and many other buildings.

September – October – Siege of Fort Erie – Both Americans and the British suffered heavy losses at the siege of Fort Erie. The Americans were compelled to withdraw from Canadian soil giving up all further efforts to invade Canada.

September 11 – Battle of Plattsburg – U.S. fleet under Thomas Macdonough defeated the British naval squadron and caused the British to break off the land invasion of Plattsburg and withdraw to Canada.

September 12 – 14 Attack on Baltimore and Fort McHenry – General Ross and his British troops attacked Baltimore and he lost his life. The British Fleet unsuccessfully attacked Fort McHenry. Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the “Star Spangled Banner” which became the U.S. national anthem.

October 17 – Siege of Fort Erie – An American attempt to capture or destroy the remaining British army on the Niagara Frontier failed when the American Fleet retired into Sacketts Harbor.

1815:

January 8 – Battle Of New Orleans – Unaware that the war was over, General Sir Edward Packenham sailed 50 British warships with 7500 men into the Gulf of Mexico. They planned to capture New Orleans. They met with the opposition of Major General Andrew Jackson and his men. The U.S. army of 6000 men killed or wounded 2100



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British men. They captured 500 men. The Americans suffered only 13 killed and 58 wounded.

Materials:

1. Maps of Northeastern part of North America. Concentrated on Upper Canada, New York and other states surrounding the area.
2. Fact sheet

Teach:

1. Assign groups or individuals a battle to research. There are so many battles that you can choose from. You can assign the students the major battles for them to research or you can assign this lesson for each year of the war. Explain to the students they need to have the following information:
 1. A map that marks where the battle occurred.
 2. An essay explaining where and when the battle took place, who started the battle, who was in command on each side, and what was the outcome of the battle.
2. Give the students time to find the information they need to collect. Check with the students on their progress in finding the information.
3. Once the students have completed the task have a day set up for oral presentations. Have the students presentations go in chronological order as they present so students can see how the war progressed.

Guided Practice:

Assist the students in finding the information on the battles by helping them with web sites for them to go to. Check on the progress of each student by checking the fact sheet.

Closure:

How did the battles affect the outcome of the war? Who won the war?

Independent Practice:

The independent work will be the essay on the battles.

Extended Activities:

1. Take the students on a field trip to a museum where they can find out information on the battles. For an example take the students to the Seaway Trail Discovery Center in Sackets Harbor, New York. Take the students to the battlefields in your area.

Websites:

1. <http://members.tripod.com/~war1812>
The site gives a summary of the War of 1812. It lists the different types of soldiers and the weapons used during the war. The site also gives a list of battles



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- and forts of the war. It is a great site for both the teachers and students to use for information.
2. <http://www.militaryheritage.com/1812.htm>
This site gives you a chronological order of events during the War of 1812. The site has articles of journals and diaries from people during the war. The site has sound clips for students to listen to. It is a great site for the teacher and students to use.
 3. <http://www.multied.com1812/index.htm>
The site offers a lot of information on the battles of the War of 1812. The site is great for the teachers and the students to find information on.
 4. <http://www.42explore2.com/1812.war.htm>
This site gives a summary of the War of 1812 and offers a large number of sites connected to the War of 1812. The site is great for teachers to find sites for the students to go to.
 5. <http://www.galafilm.com/1812/e/index.html>
This site offers a lot of information on the War of 1812. It lists the battles and events of the war. There is a section that gives you information on shipbuilding on Lake Ontario during this period. It is a great site for the teacher and the students to use.
 6. <http://www.kathimitchell.com/1812war.html>
This site is designed for students to use to learn about the War of 1812. It lists other web sites for students to visit.

Resources:

1. Seaway Trail Guidebook to the War of 1812” Patrick Wilder, Seaway Trail, Inc., 1987, ISBN 0943689023
2. “Guide Book to the Historic Sites of the War of 1812” Gilbert Collins, Dundurn Press, LTD, Nov 1998, ISBN 1550022903
3. “Where Right and Glory Lead! The Battle of Lundy’s Lane 1814” Donald E. Graves, Robin Brass Studio, Sept 2000, ISBN 1896941036
4. “Field of Glory: The Battle of Chrysler’s Farm 1813”, Donald E. Graves and John R. Elting, Robin Brass Studio, Sept 2000, ISBN 1896941109
5. “Red Coats and Grey Jackets: The Battle of Chippewa, 5 July 1814”, Donald E. Graves, Dundurn Press, July 1996, ISBN 1550022105
6. “Flames Across the Border 1813-1814: Pierre Berton, Anchor Canada, August 2001, ISBN 0385658389
7. “Amateurs, to Arms! A Military History of the War of 1812 (Major Battles and Campaigns) John Robert Elting, DaCapo Press, September 1995, ISBN 0306806533
8. “A Signal Victory: The Lake Erie Campaign 1812-1813” David Curtis Skaggs, Gerard Atloff, Naval Institute Press, May 2000 ISBN 1557508925

Books for Students:

1. “The War of 1812 (World History) Don Nardo, Lucent Books, Oct. 1999 ISBN 1560065818 (ages 8 and up)



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2. "The War of 1812: Second Fight for Independence" Alden R. Carter, Franklin Watts, Inc., March 1999 ISBN 0531156591 (ages 4-8)
3. "The War of 1812" Peter I Bosco, Millbrook Press, Oct. 1991, ASIN 15629400x (ages 10-13)
4. "War of 1812" Mary Robinson, Bt. Bound, Oct. 2001, ISBN 0613192680 (ages 9-12)
5. "The Star Spangled Banner" Peter Spier, Yearling Books, Feb 1992, ISBN 0440406978 (ages 4-8)



Fact Sheet

Name _____

The name of the battle	
Where and when did the battle occur?	
Who set the attack?	
Who was in command?	
What was the outcome of the battle?	