



Summary

Events in American History: Washington Ablaze, The War of 1812 chronicles the day when America's spirits were the lowest in history as Americans watched the Capital burn. The text explains the political and economical reasons that led to the war, the key events of the war, and the effects of the war on the United States.

Vocabulary		Comprehension Strategy	Genre Study	Text Features	
anthem	blockade	Summarizing information and main idea, Making inferences	Text structure: Cause and effect	table of contents	headings
colony	desert			photographs	maps
draft	duty			labeled photograph	captions
embargo	impressions			sidebars	text boxes
manufacture	militia			timelines	glossary
neutral				index	

Standards: Social Studies

- Understands the causes of the War of 1812
- Understands the sectional divisions related to the War of 1812
- Knows about the Native American support of the British in the War of 1812
- Understands the problems related to defining the War of 1812

Kendall, J. S., & Marzano, R. J. (2004). *Content knowledge: A compendium of standards and benchmarks for K-12 education*. Aurora, CO: Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL). Online database: www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/

Discussion Prompts Prior to Independent Reading

Vocabulary Building and Background Knowledge:

Read the title as students look at the cover. Ask students to talk about what they observe on the cover and what they already know about the war of 1812. Ask students to consider what the title "Washington Ablaze" might mean. Scaffold a discussion that builds on the background knowledge of students. Introduce students to the vocabulary words as they examine the glossary on page 47.

Discussion questions:

- What is an *anthem*? Why might someone write a song to inspire a country?
- An *embargo* is when a government orders that other countries' trade ships stop doing business in its country's ports. How might an *embargo* affect a country's port cities? How might an *embargo* affect other countries' trade?
- The practice called *impressment* is when people are forced to serve in the military. What other practices force people to do something against their will?

Genre Study and Text Features:

State that **Events in American History: Washington Ablaze, War of 1812** is an informational text written to explain the causes of the War of 1812 and the effects of the war on the United States.

Highlight prompts:

- Ask students to examine the heading for chapter one. Explain that a cause is the reason something happened. Ask students to brainstorm the possible causes for the burning of Washington.
- Ask students to examine the political cartoon on page 10. Ask students to examine the picture caption and explain the cause for the character's fit.
- Ask students to examine the title for chapter six and the pictures on pages 38 and 41. Explain that an effect is the result of something happening. Ask students to brainstorm possible effects of the war.

Reading the Book:

Have students read the book independently or with a partner.

Comprehension Questions

After students have completed reading **Events in American History: Washington Ablaze, War of 1812** gather students together for a discussion based on the questions below or assign students to answer the questions independently or with a partner.

- The British could have captured Annapolis or Baltimore and it would have been a major victory. Why did the British decide to attack Washington when only eight thousand people lived in the capital?
- Why did many New Englanders oppose going to war with Britain? War Hawks were congressmen in favor of war. Why did the War Hawks support the war with Britain?
- What was the strategy the American troops used to fight the British?
- What American victory at sea was not strategically important but boosted the spirit of the country?
- How did the defense of Fort McHenry affect the war and the American people?
- How did the War of 1812 change the United States?

BLM: Extension Activity

Students may use the graphic organizer on the next page to identify and describe four causes of the War of 1812.



Sadlier-Oxford

A Division of William H. Sadlier, Inc.

1-800-221-5175

www.sadlier-oxford.com

Copyright © by William H. Sadlier, Inc. All rights reserved.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY Events in American History: Washington Ablaze, The War of 1812

Name: _____

Date: _____

Directions: Complete the graphic organizer by identifying and describing four causes of the War of 1812.

Cause:

Cause:

Cause:

Cause:

Effect:

W
A
R

O
F

1
8
1
2