GRADE 7: HISTORY

THE WAR OF 1812

Purpose: For students to examine the causes, events and results of the War of 1812. Students will use their inquiry skills to research the different sides of the war. They will profile influential people and reflect the ways First Nations and Métis People shaped the events of the war.

Estimated time: Three 60-minute class periods

Resources required:
- Computer and internet
- Resources and research (e.g.: books, encyclopedias, etc.)

Resources included:
- Blackline master

Activity:
1. Explain to students that the late 18th and early 19th centuries was an era of conflict. On June 18, 1812, the United States declared war on Great Britain, bringing Canada into the front lines of a war.

2. For a review, watch “The War of 1812” at video.pbs.org/video/2089393539

3. As they watch, ask students to take point form notes about the motives of the different parties involved in the war (e.g.: Great Britain, the United States, First Nations and Métis People and the British Colonies of Canada), and list important figures as they are introduced (e.g.: Sir Isaac Brock, Tecumseh, etc.).

4. When the video is complete, ask students to summarize what they learned.

5. Divide the class into four groups.

6. Explain to students that there were four main viewpoints in the War of 1812, these were: Great Britain, the United States, First Nations and Métis and the British Colonies of Canada. In addition, within these parties were various influential figures who made a great impact on the results of the war. Assign each group to one of the following topics:
   - Chart paper
   - Great Britain: Prime Minister Spencer Perceval, Robert Banks Jenkinson and Lieutenant-General Sir John Harvey.
   - The United States: General William H. Harrison, General George McClure, President James Madison and General William Hull.
   - First Nations and Métis People: Tecumseh, Ahyouwaighs (John Brant) and Teyoninhokarawen (John Norton).

7. Tell students that in their groups, they must answer the following research questions on blackline master 1 about their topic:
   - What were the reasons for fighting?
   - What were the major events participated in?
   - Who were the influential figures and what did they do?
   - What was the outcome of the war and was this desired?

8. Direct students to the Archives of Ontario: Important Figures in the War of 1812, to begin their research www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/on-line-exhibits/1812/figures.aspx Also encourage students to use books and encyclopedias and perform further internet searches.

9. Once students have completed blackline master 1, ask them to create a five-minute presentation for the class. Presentations should educate their classmates on their assigned side in the war. Encourage students to get creative using skits and visual aids to present their information.

10. At the conclusion of these presentations, facilitate a debate among the four groups, positing the following question: Who won the War of 1812?

11. Before concluding this activity, bring focus to the involvement of Aboriginal Canadians in the war. Explain to students that Aboriginal People have participated in every major conflict in which Canada has ever participated and that their contribution to the War of 1812 was highly influential. Ask students to write a brief reflection outlining the role of First Nations and Métis People in the War of 1812 and the impact of their involvement.

12. Completed reflections will be handed in.
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