

**CHAPTER 6 Section 4** (pages 202–205)

# The War of 1812

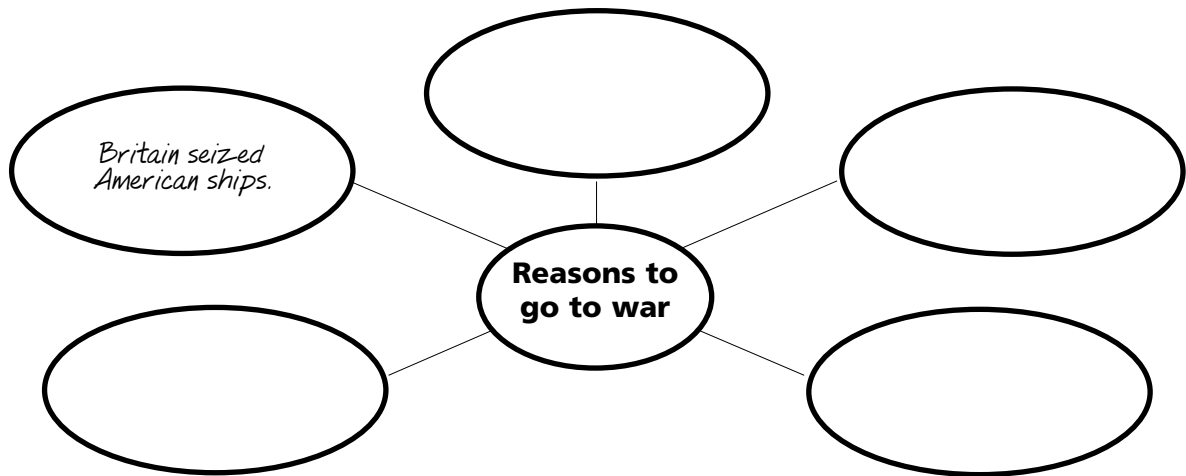
## BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you learned about the early years of the Jefferson presidency.

In this section, you will learn about the conflicts that led to war between the United States and Great Britain.

## AS YOU READ

Use this diagram to take notes about the reasons the war hawks wanted war with Great Britain.



### TERMS AND NAMES

**blockade** Sealing ports to prevent other ships from entering or leaving.

**impressment** Act of seizing sailors to work on ships

**embargo** A ban on exporting goods to other countries

**William Henry Harrison Tecumseh** Native American leader

**Tecumseh** Shawnee chief who formed Native American confederation to fight Americans

**war hawk** One who favors war

**Andrew Jackson** General who led American forces in Battle of New Orleans

**Treaty of Ghent** Treaty that ended the War of 1812

**armistice** End to fightingThe War

## The War Hawks Demand War

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### *Why did Americans want war with Britain?*

In 1804, Jefferson won a second term as president. Shortly after his victory, Britain and France went to war. In 1806, France began refusing to allow British goods to come into Europe. In turn, Britain decided to **blockade** Europe—or prevent ships from entering or leaving its ports. By 1807, both Britain and France had seized more than 1,000 American ships.

The British also practiced **impressment**. This was a practice in which British forces seized American sailors and forced them to serve in the British navy. In 1807, Jefferson asked Congress to declare an **embargo**, a ban on exporting goods to other countries. Jefferson hoped the embargo would hurt Britain and other European countries and force them to respect American neutrality. Rather than hurting Britain, however, the embargo hurt American businesses. As a result, Congress ended the embargo.

The call for war against Britain grew louder in the wake of an incident involving Native Americans in the Northwest Territory. In 1809 General **William Henry Harrison**, the governor of the Indiana Territory, *persuaded* several Native American chiefs to sign away millions of acres of tribal land to the U.S. government. **Tecumseh**, a Native American leader, organized a confederacy of Native Americans to fight for these lands. American troops defeated the confederacy in 1811. After the battle, Americans discovered that the British had supplied the Native Americans arms. As a result, the two nations grew closer to war.

American anger at Britain steadily grew. Some leaders demanded war against Britain. They were known as **war hawks**. They were led by legislators John C. Calhoun and Henry Clay.

1. What were two reasons that Americans wanted war with Great Britain?

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## The War Brings Mixed Results

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### *What were the results of the war?*

James Madison became president in 1808. By 1812, relations with Britain were more strained than ever. That year, Madison asked Congress to declare war on Britain. Congress approved the war declaration.

Soon afterward, U.S. forces attacked the British in Canada. The war did not go well for the Americans at first. Then a U.S. Navy fleet defeated the British on Lake Erie. The British took the upper hand again in 1814, however, when they launched a successful attack on Washington, D.C. President Madison had to flee the city.

The advantage swung back to the Americans in 1815, when U.S. General **Andrew Jackson** scored a victory in the Battle of New Orleans. This victory, however, came after British and American diplomats already had agreed on a peace treaty.

The **Treaty of Ghent**, signed in December 1814, declared an **armistice**, or end to the fighting. The War of 1812 showed that the United States was truly independent. The war also increased a feeling of national pride.

2. What were two results of the War of 1812?

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### Skillbuilder

Americans created the figure of Uncle Sam during the War of 1812. Shown here is an early depiction of his character. The Uncle Sam image later evolved into the one we know today—a man with white hair and a beard. Use the cartoon to help answer the questions.

1. How would you describe this image of Uncle Sam?

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2. Why might a war prompt Americans to create Uncle Sam?

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