THE WAR OF 1812

A. Causes of the War

1. Impressment
   a. Britain and France were fighting a war in Europe
   b. Britain began capturing American sailors and “impressing” them, or forcing them to work on British ships
   c. By 1807, Britain had seized more than 1,000 American ships

2. Embargo Act of 1807
   a. President Jefferson convinced Congress to declare an embargo
   b. Jefferson believed the embargo would hurt Britain, but it really hurt America
   c. In 1809, Congress ended the embargo with all countries except Britain and France

3. America’s Desire for Canada
   a. Americans saw that Canada was not well-defended by Britain
   b. Americans wanted more land and believed that people in Canada would want to join the United States

B. The War Hawks

1. A group of Republican Congressmen from the South and West
2. Wanted war against Britain
3. Led by Senator John C. Calhoun of South Carolina and Henry Clary of Kentucky

C. Election of 1808

1. James Madison, a Democratic-Republican, won
2. In the Spring of 1812, Madison decided to go to war against Britain

D. The War in Canada

1. Americans were unprepared for war
2. The British captured Detroit and the Americans failed to capture Canada
3. Many Native Americans helped the British because they wanted to stop Americans from taking more land

E. The War at Sea

1. The U.S. Navy was young and outnumbered
2. In November of 1812, the British blockaded the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays
3. The blockade grew throughout the war
4. By 1813, most American ships were unable to leave their ports

F. The War on Land

1. Battle for Washington
   a. The British invaded Washington, D.C. in 1814
   b. British soldiers burned the Capitol, the White House, and other public buildings
   c. Before the British burned the White House, Dolley Madison saved a famous painting of George Washington

2. Battle at Fort McHenry
   a. Francis Scott Key: an American lawyer and prisoner of the British
   b. Saw an American flag flying over Ft. McHenry after the battle
   c. The flag inspired Key to write “The Star-Spangled Banner”

G. The Battle of New Orleans (1815)

1. The most famous/important battle of the War
2. Americans were lead to victory by General Andrew Jackson
3. The battle continued even after the war ended because word did not reach the Americans for several weeks

H. The Treaty of Ghent

1. In December, 1815, British and Americans met in Ghent, Belgium to negotiate a peace treaty

2. Results of the war:
   a. Britain and American became better allies
   b. America gained respect from other countries