

In this unit, students will be introduced to an important period in the history of the United States: the time during the War of 1812.

What's the story?

Students will learn why the **War of 1812** is often called America's second war for independence.

What will my student learn?

Students will learn about **James and Dolley Madison** and their direct **connection** to the **War of 1812**. They will also learn about **Great Britain's three-part plan** to win back the United States.

Students will **plan, draft,** and **present a persuasive speech**. They will also create a **Picture Gallery of important people** and **events** connected with the War of 1812.

Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. Can you describe some of the events that caused the United States to go to war with Great Britain in 1812?
Follow up: Why is the War of 1812 sometimes called America's second war for independence?
2. What role did James Madison play in the War of 1812?
Follow up: What role did Dolley Madison play? What things in their lives prepared them for these roles?
3. What was the USS *Constitution*?
Follow up: Why was it called Old Ironsides? Why do you think knowledge of our waterways was helpful for the Americans in the War of 1812?
4. Why did the British want to attack Washington, D.C.?
Follow up: What did the British do when they reached the capital?
5. How are pirates and privateers the same?
Follow up: How are they different?