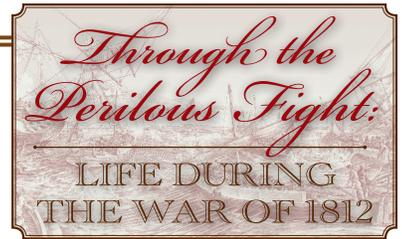# TEACHER BACKGROUND

Overview

The goal of the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum War of 1812 Traveling Trunk program is to provide experiences and primary source materials that enrich an understanding of the lives of Maryland citizens during the War of 1812. The trunk contains 11 object-based lesson plans and hands-on activities as well as reproductions, objects and images. Lessons meet Maryland's current Voluntary State Curriculum for 3rd – 5th grade audiences.

Battle of St. Leonard Creek.

This trunk provides a glimpse into the lives of Maryland citizens during the War of 1812 through the following:

- Objects, images and reproductions of primary source material
- Lesson plans and worksheets for student use
- Secondary source material: catalog cards for all objects, books, music and suggestions for videos

Girl in period costume.

Photo courtesy of D. Krankowski

How can these resources be used?

There are already a lot of incredible resources available for teachers interested in exploring the War of 1812 with their students – we've listed some of them in the Related Resources section of this notebook. Our Traveling Trunk program provides opportunities for hands-on encounters that help give dimension to an exploration of these pivotal and important events. It is a wonderful complement to a unit exploring the War of 1812 and/or the experience of life during the early 1800s.

Traveling Trunks are like mini-museums for your classroom. The objects, resources, and images work together and separately to tell a story much like an exhibition does. Each object has its own "catalog card" or "label" that provides more information. The objects themselves are durable but precious, so please use care and respect when working with them.

We suggest that you first read through all the lessons and encourage you to use whichever work best for your students, their learning styles and your unit of study. Hopefully you'll use them all! Here is a brief synopsis of each lesson:

- **Mystery objects** is an excellent way to begin your exploration of the objects in the Trunk. This lesson leads students through close examination, evidence gathering and discovery of more information about select objects.

- **Making a Timeline** is a content-rich, whole class activity where students explore the causes and effects of the War of 1812 through a sorting and chronology based exercise.

- **Creating a Broadside** asks students to examine primary source material (broadsides) with an eye towards both content and design. Probing questions about purpose, audience and intention scaffold the culminating art activity—making your own broadside—which can be exhibited, shared and/or read aloud.

Photo courtesy of Judith Landis

Cooking in a military camp during a re-enactment at JPPM.

- **Creating Original Artwork** is a hands-on art activity where students create silhouettes of each other that can be displayed and enjoyed by family and community.

- **American Images** grounds a discussion of nationhood in the close examination of two, early 19th- century paintings by John Lewis Krimmel.

- **Letter Writing with a Point of View** offers a letter written by Sir George Cockburn for students to analyze and then develop some creative writing in response. The lesson includes additional primary source material for rich extensions.

- **Preparing and Tasting Food** is a hands-on lesson that fosters a real connection to the everyday lives of people during the War of 1812.

- **Reading Maps** introduces students to maps, map reading and travel calculations in both contemporary and historic times.

- **Responding to Artwork** inspires students to look closely at period paintings by John Lewis Krimmel and the experiences of people living and working during the early 1800s through participation in dramatic rendition.

- **The Experience of Kids** features activities grouped by theme that explore the work, play and life experiences of children in the early 1800s.

- **Creating an Exhibition** offers students a hands-on curatorial experience via the collaborative development of an exhibition; one that features objects, research and concise labels.

While these lessons are designed to be used in any order; they also scaffold and build upon each other. For example, you might choose to **Create an Exhibition** of student **Broadsides** and then host an opening reception at which you serve foods made from recipes explored in **Preparing and Tasting Food.** Or you might use student character sketches from **Responding to Artwork** as central figures in their fictional journey from **Reading Maps.** Let us know how you use, modify or intertwine these lessons with each other and with your larger unit of study.

Don't forget to pass it on!

We're genuinely interested in learning how you are experiencing the Traveling Trunk! We've included a log or "travel journal." As you work with the lessons, resources and objects, use this log as a scrapbook and make a note of your experiences for the next class or group that will use the material. Feel free to include images, photos or samples of student-generated projects as well. What did you enjoy the most? Did you create a new lesson that used the objects in a different and gratifying way? Take some photos of the artwork you produce, any exhibitions you create, or potluck meals you host and share them with us and future trunk users in either the trunk log or on pinterest.com! We're happy to post any of your great ideas for adapting the lessons or objects for others to use.

Background information

The War of 1812 in a nutshell

At the dawn of the 19th century, the United States was still a young nation growing and defining itself as separate from England. Although established as independent, many factors kept America entwined with the British Empire.

- The British had yet to completely depart from American territories. For example, British forces still held forts on the western frontier around the Great Lakes and were allied with Native American communities in areas where Americans were eager to settle.

- Having declared war on France in an effort to stop Napoleon's campaign to conquer Europe, the British needed more manpower, especially sailors to serve in their navy. So they began seizing American merchant ships and forcing sailors to serve on British naval vessels. This process was called impressment.

- Additionally, because the British were at war with France, there were many trade restrictions that impinged upon American interests and economic growth and stability.

President James Madison (with support from "war hawks"—individuals who wanted to fight against the British) declared war on Great Britain in 1812. What followed was two years of combat both on land and at sea in various areas, including around the Great Lakes, in Canada (a British colony), as far south as New Orleans and in the Chesapeake Bay region.

In the early 1800s, the Chesapeake Bay region was an important economic and governmental center. Baltimore was becoming the largest port in the region and Washington D.C. was located along the Potomac River. This was part of the reason the British felt the bay was an important target. The British were a military

Photo courtesy of Mike Shisler

Recreation of the Battle of St. Leonard Creek during the 2008 Grand tactical.

Commodore Joshua Barney.

presence there from early 1813, when they established their blockade, until 1815, with the most intense fighting happening in 1814. This was known officially as the Chesapeake Campaign. As a military presence, the British impacted the lives of everyone working and living in the region. They raided and looted farms, captured merchant ships and destroyed and seized private property, enacting what some have called a "war of terror."

At the start of the war, American forces suffered a series of losses. In 1812, America invaded Canada with the hope of conquering that British territory. Most of the fighting occurred in the Great Lakes area, with Native Americans fighting on both the British and American sides. Although Americans were able to burn the capital of Canada (current-day Toronto, then known as York), they were not able to capture any part of Canada during that campaign. At the same time, American naval forces, specifically the USS Constitution and the USS United States, fared better against the British. These successes contributed to a tightening of the British blockade on trade routes in New England and New York, impacting and weakening the American economy. By 1814, the British troops had grown in number (as many were no longer needed in Europe once Napoleon was defeated), which re-energized their campaign. But by then, veteran American troops were also mobilized and, with fighting experience under their belts, enacted vigorous defenses in New York, Baltimore and New Orleans. The ratification of the Treaty of Ghent by Congress in 1815 ushered in an era of peace between the United States and England.

One of the most infamous actions in the Chesapeake Bay region was the British raid on Washington D.C. in 1814, burning the Capitol Building and the Navy Yard, destroying books in the Library of Congress, and setting fire to the White House. Famously, Dolley Madison was able to preserve many White House valuables (including important papers and a portrait of George Washington) before fleeing to safety.

Some have written that the War of 1812 established the United States as an independent nation to be respected on an international stage. Just 30 years after its revolution, America was able to defend itself against the

The Patuxent shoreline at JPPM.

British, come together as a government and establish clear boundaries and territorial interests. In particular, the iconic Battle of Baltimore and Battle of New Orleans (both captured in song and folklore) were heralded as a fresh start for the United States.

1812 re-enactors in formation for the flag ceremony.

Photo courtesy of Joe Seidel

A note about the Star-Spangled Banner

After raiding the U.S. Capital in August 1814, the British attacked Baltimore, as it was an important port and economic center. But the city was successfully defended by forces under the command of Major General Samuel Smith and Major George Amistead.

American soldiers on the North Point peninsula repelled the invading British army, while the defenders of Fort McHenry withstood a long naval bombardment. Francis Scott Key famously witnessed this battle, and on the morning after its conclusion, he saw the 30x42 foot flag sewn by Mary Pickersgill still flying above the fort. This flag, with 15 stars and stripes, is now on display at the National Museum of American History in Washington D.C. Inspired by the events, Key composed a poem about the battle. It was soon set to the tune of a popular British song, and renamed "The Star-Spangled Banner." Although it was a popular song, it did not become the official national anthem until 1931.

TEACHER BACKGROUND

Timeline of key events

More information about the events listed here can be found in the Timeline catalog cards
that are part of the Making a Timeline lesson.

May 18, 1804	Napoleon becomes Emperor of France
June 22, 1807	The Chesapeake-Leopard Affair
November 11, 1807	British "order of council' limits American trade
December 22, 1807	U.S. introduces the Embargo Act limiting exports to the British
May 1, 1810	U.S. reopens trade but tensions remain
November 7, 1811	Battle of Tippecanoe
June 1, 1812	Proclamation of War sent to Congress
June 18, 1812	President Madison signs the Proclamation of War
June 18 & July 27-29, 1812	Baltimore Riots
April 27, 1813	Battle of York, Canada
May 3, 1813	Skirmish at Havre de Grace, Maryland
July 4, 1813	Commodore Joshua Barney proposes building a flotilla
August 10, 1813	St. Michael's, MD fools the British into shelling a forest instead of the town
May 24, 1814	The Chesapeake Flotilla leaves Baltimore, looking to engage the British Navy
June 1, 1814	Battle of Cedar Point
June 8 – 10, 1814	First Battle of St. Leonard Creek
June 26, 1814	Second Battle of St. Leonard Creek
August 24, 1814	Battle of Bladensburg
August 24, 1814	Burning of Washington, D.C.
September 12, 1814	Battle of North Point
September 13 – 14, 1814	Battle of Ft. McHenry
December 24, 1814	The Treaty of Ghent is signed, ending the war in a draw
January 8, 1815	Battle of New Orleans
February 16, 1815	U.S. Senate ratified the Treaty of Ghent
April 4, 1818	Adoption of the United States Flag with 13 red and white stripes and a star for each state

TEACHER BACKGROUND

Related Resources

http://www.jefpat.org/
Website of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum features information about special events and additional resources related to the War of 1812.

http://starspangled200.org/Pages/Home.aspx
Website of the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission. Features extensive resources, including a rich historical overview, listings of significant historic sites and bicentennial events as well as additional online resources.

The militia takes aim during a re-enactment on the shores of the Patuxent River.

http://starspangled200.org/Resources/ Documents/1812%20Teacher%20Resource%20Guide_Color.pdf
Curriculum entitled "Defense of a Nation; Maryland's role in the War of 1812", featuring lesson plans, worksheets and background information.

http://www.mdch.org/collection.aspx?id=71346
Website of Maryland Digital Cultural Heritage, featuring highlights of the Maryland Historical Society's War of 1812 Collection with images of objects like portraits, lithographs, paintings and the handwritten manuscript of the poem written by Francis Scott Key.

http://americanhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner/
This website is an online version of the exhibition from the Smithsonian National Museum of American History addressing the War of 1812 and our national anthem. Site includes lesson plans for grades k – 8 and bibliography of kids' books. *(http://americanhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner/ books-for-kids.aspx)*

http://www.nps.gov/fomc/index.htm
Website of Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. The site offers a brand new visitor center as well as living history and ranger led presentations.

http://www.nps.gov/stsp/historyculture/1812-links-and-resources.htm
Website of the Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail features links to additional websites, educator resources and living history units.

http://hdg1812.wordpress.com
A blog and community site featuring programs, historical information and resources about the experience of Havre de Grace during the War of 1812.

http://ourflagwasstillthere.org
The official U.S. Navy website for bicentennial events and resources including links to educational essays, performances and video, as well as a calendar of when tall ships will visit 12 cities pivotal to the War.

http://va1812bicentennial.dls.virginia.gov/
Website of Virginia's bicentennial commission listing historic sites, figures and events in Virginia.

http://www.history.org/History/teaching/enewsletter/volume10/jan12/teachstrategy.cfm
Colonial Williamsburg lesson plan on the influence of economics on the War of 1812.

Acknowledgments

Photo courtesy of D. Krankowski

American troops stand at attention at JPPM re-enactment.