

The War of 1812- Battle of Plattsburgh

September 11, 1814

- Plattsburgh's location on Lake Champlain in New York and its relationship to the locations of other places and people meant that Plattsburgh would play a key role in the War of 1812.
- Lake Champlain played a vital role in Britain's plans to recapture the newly formed United States.
- The British hadn't gotten over their loss of the colonies during the Revolutionary War and wanted revenge.
- The United States did not want to go to war against the British again. Their government was young, they did not have the finances, and there was no established army or navy.
- The British antagonized the United States by impressing sailors, blocking international trade, and firing upon U.S. ships.
- British troops were well established in Canada, marking Plattsburgh as an obvious target.
- The naval battle at Plattsburgh is often referred to the Second War of Independence.

History of the United States and New York	Needs and Wants Human Rights	<p>Classroom Activities</p> <p>Brainstorm with students a list of freedoms that are important to them. Ask them what their reactions would be should those freedoms be taken away. Define <i>impressment</i>. Then have them write a persuasive essay or speech defending their point of view.</p>
Civics, Citizenship, Government	Change Conflict Civic Values	<p>Ask students to take a stance on the War of 1812 and support it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What viewpoints might they have? • Why did the British incite war? • Why was the United States reluctant to enter war? • In the end, why was war declared and by whom? • What was the result of the war?
Geography	Decision Making	<p>Have students make a poster encouraging men to join the army, navy or militia.</p> <p>On a map, have students locate and label Canada, Plattsburgh, Lake Champlain, the Saranac River, and recognize strategy.</p>
History of New York State		<p>Have students write biographical sketches of Commodore Thomas Macdonough or Captain George Downie.</p> <p>Discuss the differences of ship size, firepower, and strategies</p>

	Power, Science, and Technology	<p>of the two sides prior to the Battle of Plattsburgh. Have students predict the outcome of the battle. What were the results and consequences of the Battle of Plattsburgh?</p> <p>Have students write an essay and enter The Battle of Plattsburgh Essay Contest. Please refer to www.battleofplattsburgh.org for contest rules and deadlines.</p> <p>Have students assume the persona of Commodore Macdonough and write a journal entry of the events and results of September 11, 1814.</p> <p>Teacher Notes The Battle of Plattsburgh Association has an up- to- date website at www.battleofplattsburgh.org</p>
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Interdisciplinary Connections

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Students will write persuasive paragraphs, essays, and speeches.

ART

Students will draw and illustrate posters and maps.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students will play period games- Graces, hoops, jump rope, stilts, Duck, Duck, Goose.

MATHEMATICS

Students will calculate the differences in ship size, guns, and crew.

SCIENCE

Students can calculate the trajectory of cannon fire at different ranges, which was why the Commodore Macdonough repositioned his ships the night before the battle.

Suggested Documents and Other Resources Selected by New York State Teachers

Portraits of Commodore Thomas Macdonough and Captain George Downie

Paintings of the Battle of Plattsburgh by Dean Mosher and Julian Davidson

Map of the ship lineup for the battle of Plattsburgh

September Eleventh 1814: The Battles at Plattsburgh, by Keith A. Herkalo

The War of 1812 in the Champlain Valley, by Allan S. Everest

- Chart of British and American ships with tons, crew, and guns

The Journal of Henry K. Averill, Sr., edited by Keith Herkalo
Lake Champlain and Lake George History Timelines: The War of 1812 on Lake Champlain, by James Millard

Kent Delord House Museum Trunks- available to local school districts at a modest fee. Each trunk contains artifacts or reproductions of period articles along with a teacher's manual.

- Children's Games
- Medicine
- The Puzzler
- Children's Clothing
- British Officer

Trade Books

Mr. Teach Goes to War, by Frank A. Cooper

Our Champlain Story: Historical Cartoons and Text, by Sid Couchey

The Passport- Battle of Plattsburgh Association

Videos:

The Final Invasion

Using the Internet

<http://www.battleofplattsburgh.org>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Plattsburgh#Prelude

Field Trips

Battle of Plattsburgh Association

31 Washington Road

Plattsburgh, NY 12903

(518) 566-1814

Clinton County Historical Association

98 Ohio Avenue

Plattsburgh, NY 12903

(518) 561-0340

Kent Delord House Museum

17 Cumberland Avenue

Plattsburgh, NY 12901

(518) 561-1035

Plattsburgh City Hall

41 City Hall Place

Plattsburgh, NY 12901

(518) 563-7870