

**General Overview:** American victory over British forces in America and in Canada. Fighting both British and Native American troops in Canada, the U.S., and Florida, the Americans managed to win what some have called the "second war of independence," despite stunning defeats in the north (loss of Fort Detroit) and the symbolic burning of the White House, Capitol, and other government buildings (Battle of Washington). The war had its roots in the Native American conflicts in the Northwest Territory and the British encouragement of those conflicts, as well as the continued British interference with American shipping. The last official battle of the war, the Battle of Baltimore, convinced the British that they didn't have the troops to keep on fighting this war *and* fighting Napoleon, which they had been doing in Europe for most of the War of 1812 as well. They agreed to peace by signing the Treaty of Ghent. Ironically, commanders for neither side in the South heard of the treaty before the Battle of New Orleans, in January 1815. The American victory put an exclamation point on the overall war victory.

**War Hawks:** Members of Congress from the South and West who desperately wanted war with England & the Native Americans. The leaders of the War Hawks were Henry Clay and John C. Calhoun.

**Tecumseh:** Shawnee chief who fought alongside the British.

**Francis Scott Key:** Lawyer and amateur poet who wrote the Star-Spangled Banner.

**Andrew Jackson:** Tennessee lawyer and statesman who became general of southern army for America.

**William Henry Harrison:** Governor of Indiana Territory and leader of the western troops for America.

**Battle of Tippecanoe:** In 1811, Tecumseh went to visit the Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Creek tribes, to enlist their support against American expansion. Tecumseh left his brother in charge and told him not to attack nearby American forces. The Shawnee Prophet ignored his brother's warnings and attacked Americans at Prophet's Town, near Tippecanoe Creek.

**Battle of Detroit:** American troops crossed from Fort Detroit into Canada and demanded the surrender of the Canadian and British troops there. The Canadian-British-Native American forces refused to surrender. Eventually, the massing of Native Americans and British troops proved too much.

**Fort Mackinac:** American fort on the island of Michilimackinac, a strategic outpost guarding the fur trade outlets for both America and Canada. During American General William Hull's failed Fort Detroit campaign, the British were able to capture Fort Mackinac and use it a base of operations for further attacks on American interests in the Northwest Territory.

**Battle of Lake Erie:** American victory over British ships on September 10, 1813. This victory secured the Northwest Territory for America and reversed the British momentum gained at the surrender of Fort Detroit. The American ships were smaller, but they had more of them.

**Battle of the Thames River:** American victory on October 5, 1813, toward the end of the War of 1812. At Moraviantown, in Ontario, Canada, American forces under the command of General William Henry Harrison defeated a combined British-Native American force that was retreating from the Lake Erie area after Oliver Hazard Perry's victory there. The force also included the Shawnee leader Tecumseh, who was killed in the battle.

**Battle of Horseshoe Bend:** Battle that took place on March 27, 1814, near Daviston, Alabama. American troops under General Andrew Jackson defeated a force of Upper Creek & Red Stick Native American warriors. This was the final battle of the Creek War, which is considered part of the War of 1812.

**Battle of Plattsburg:** Battle on Lake Champlain on September 11, 1814, during the War of 1812. American forces defeated the British on land and at sea and helped convince the British that they could no longer hope of taking American territory.

**Battle of Washington:** British victory that resulted in the burning of many U.S. government buildings, including the Capitol, White House, the War Office, and the Treasury building. The British defeated a ragtag force of soldiers and militia at Bladensburg, right outside Washington, and then marched into the capital city. As soon as they set fire to the buildings, they retreated.

**Battle of Baltimore:** Historic American victory that produced America's national anthem. On September 12, 1814, British troops landed near Baltimore, fresh from their victory at Washington and the burning of the White House and other government buildings. Baltimore was better prepared than Washington had been, and the British bombardment of American positions, including Fort McHenry, did not result in an American surrender. Convinced that they didn't have the troops to take Baltimore, the British retreated. It was the last official battle of the war.

**Fort McHenry:** American fort built in Baltimore harbor in 1799. The British bombed the fort on September 13-14 (during the War of 1812). This bombardment (and the survival of the fort) inspired Francis Scott Key to write the Star-Spangled Banner, America's national anthem.

**Battle of New Orleans:** American victory in a battle that never had to happen. American forces under General Andrew Jackson defeated British forces on January 8, 1815, several weeks after the signing of the Treaty of Ghent, which had officially ended the war. Neither group of troops had gotten the news by the time the battle began. This battle is also interesting in that the British lost more than 700 dead and 1,400 injured while the Americans lost only 8 dead and 13 wounded.

**Treaty of Ghent:** Treaty that officially ended the War of 1812. Negotiators for America included John Quincy Adams and Henry Clay. Great Britain agreed to give up claims to the Northwest Territory, and both countries promised to work toward ending the slave trade. The treaty was signed in Ghent, Belgium, on December 24, 1814. However, the slowness of communications prevented word of peace getting to the armies in and around New Orleans. American forces under Andrew Jackson won the Battle of New Orleans anyway.

**The Star Spangled Banner:** America's national anthem. The words were written by Francis Scott Key during the bombardment of Fort McHenry by the British in the War of 1812. The music was composed in 1777 by John Stafford Smith, an Englishman, as a setting for a poem. Union soldiers sang it during the Civil War, and American soldiers sang it during World War I. But it wasn't the official national anthem until March 3, 1931, when President Herbert Hoover signed a bill naming it so.