

# Caustic Causes

## Commencement

One class period

### Program Segments

- Introduction (3 ½ minutes)
- 1800 – 1810 Prelude to War (3 minutes)
- 1810 – 1811 Calls for War (7 ½ minutes)
- June 1812 Declaration of War (6 minutes)

### NCSS Themes

- VI: Power, Authority, and Governance
- IX: Global Connections

### Canadian (Ontario) Concepts

Power and Governance

### Canadian (Ontario) Specific Expectations – Seventh Grade

- Describe the major causes and personalities of the War of 1812
- Describe the impact of the War of 1812 on the development of Canada

### Objectives

Students will be able to:

- describe the major events that forced America into a second war with Britain

### Focus Questions

1. What are the forces that push a nation to the point where declaring war on another nation is needed?
2. Is one major reason enough to commit troops or is there a series of injuries which force a conflict?

### Key Concepts

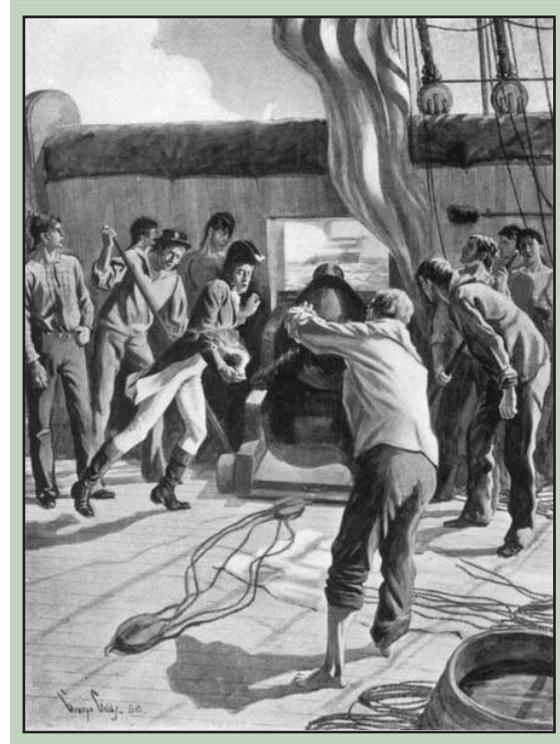
Impressment, War Hawks

### Instructional Resources

- *The War of 1812* DVD
- Causes Study Sheet (appendix pg. 95)

### Procedures

1. The teacher will show the first segments of *The War of 1812* which highlight the causes of this conflict.
2. The teacher will explain to the students that there are other possible causes than the documentary describes and the students will have an opportunity to explore them.
3. The teacher will divide the class into five groups and give each group one cause (from the Causes Study Sheet) to explore along with a paragraph of information pertaining to that cause.
4. The students will discuss within their groups whether their particular cause would have been reason enough to declare war.



5. The teacher should add to each group's discussion the possible costs of war in terms of financial and human costs and that students should not take the decision to commit these resources lightly.
6. After a period of allotted time for debate, each group will propose to the class their specific cause, their findings, and whether or not they have decided to commit troops.
7. Once each group has spoken, open the discussion to a new larger debate involving the entire class and propose the viewing of all the causes together. See if there are any changes in their declarations.
8. To conclude the lesson, the teacher will make the point that there is usually more than one reason which leads a nation to engage another militaristically.

***Assessment Tasks***

Students should have appropriate participation within their small group discussions and presentations of information to the class. Using the program and outside resources, the students will determine how few or how many reasons led to the beginning of the War of 1812.

