

War of 1812

Purpose: The purpose of this task is to analyze the events that caused the war of 1812.

Directions: Look at each source provided and identify the issue that may have help cause the War of 1812

Source 1



There was also conflict on land. On the western frontier, various Indian nations claimed territory, and some tribes were increasingly hostile to the growing presence of American settlers. Even before the Revolutionary War ended, some Native Americans in the North and West had joined the British side, hoping to force out settlers who were taking their land and destroying their way of life. With the defeat of the British army, the native people had to deal with the government of the United States, which refused to treat them as equals. Indian nations would also kill Americans trying to settle westward.

Describe the issue in this source:

Source 2

Excerpt from War of 1812
By Kathryn Gay and Martin Gay

Merchants and seamen of New England towns who made their living by trading goods and services with European markets were in an uproar. England and France had been at war since 1793, and in order to punish their enemy, the British passed laws banning trade with France. American traders had been doing a brisk business with both of the combatants, and they were incensed by the British tactics. After all, hadn't they just won a war to eliminate the oppressive hand of the English king from their lives? When the Americans ignored the orders and continued their trade with France and its colonies throughout the World, the mighty British navy began to seize American merchant ships.

Describe the issue in this source:

Excerpt from America and the War of 1812

By Eugene M. Walt

The British did not understand the Americans and did not care to. Most Britons "refused to recognize the American people as all of them wished to cripple their proud adversary. They believed that the Americans must submit to strong British demands, must pay for their 1812 war declaration, and give up territory. They feared America would become a rival in agriculture, commerce, naval force, and industry. Britons wanted boundary changes and to exclude them from the Great Lakes with a permanent Indian state in the Old Northwest. They should, the British felt, cede to Britain New Orleans and the privilege to navigate the Mississippi. Americans must recognize British right of search. In short the British wished for revenge.

Describe the issue in this source:

Excerpt from America and the War of 1812

By Eugene M. Walt

The westerners were angry: "desperate and angry owing to the loss of overseas markets for their goods, and burning with patriotic anger at British aggressions, particularly impressment." Agricultural depression and the hurt done to the small but important export of produce and grains also drove the westerners to the cause of war. New England shippers were making a profit despite the European conflict and so they did not want further disruption, while the western interests, being producer orientated with export crops of tobacco and cotton, felt bound from a loss of markets. Western farmers needed the income to pay for land, manufactured items, and small luxuries in home and food. From 1808 to 1812, the large Mississippi Valley farmer suffered from depression because of falls in agricultural prices. Some of their costs were even rising."

Impressment: The British practice of manning naval ships with "pressed" men, who were forcibly placed into service on ships.

Describe the issue in this source: