

War and a Flag

Trace causes and key events of the War of 1812.

SS4H3.a "Describe the causes and events of the War of 1812; include the burning of the Capitol and the White House and the writing of "The Star Spangled Banner.""

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the two causes of the war. Then write 1, 2, 3, and 4 beside these events in order: the United States declares war, the British burn the Capitol and White House, the British attack Fort McHenry, and Francis Scott Key writes a poem.

A War Reaches the Capital

- ① In the early 1800s, Britain and France were at war. Both countries tried to stop trade with the other. British ships stopped some American ships and took sailors, forcing them to serve in Britain's navy. This practice angered many Americans. Britain also supported some Native American groups resisting American settlement in the West. These problems helped cause the War of 1812.
- ② On June 18, 1812, after months of debate, the United States declared war on Britain. The fighting lasted more than two years. In August 1814, British soldiers reached Washington, D.C., the nation's capital. They burned the Capitol and the White House. The burning shocked Americans and showed that the British could attack important government buildings.
- ③ In September 1814, British ships attacked Fort McHenry near Baltimore. From a British ship, lawyer Francis Scott Key watched the fort through the night. At dawn, he saw the large American flag still flying above the fort. Key wrote a poem about what he saw. His poem later became the words of "The Star-Spangled Banner," the national anthem of the United States.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What two actions by Britain helped cause the War of 1812?

2 What did British soldiers burn in Washington, D.C., in August 1814?

3 What event happened first, the burning of the Capitol and White House or the attack on Fort McHenry? Use dates from the passage to explain.

4 What did Francis Scott Key see at dawn, and what did he do because of what he saw?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences that tell a cause-and-events chain from the War of 1812. Include one cause in sentence 1, the burning in sentence 2, and Fort McHenry and Francis Scott Key in sentence 3.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the two causes of the war. Then write 1, 2, 3, and 4 beside these events in order: the United States declares war, the British burn the Capitol and White House, the British attack Fort McHenry, and Francis Scott Key writes a poem. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two actions by Britain helped cause the War of 1812?	British ships stopped American ships and took American sailors for Britain's navy. Britain also supported some Native American groups resisting American settlement in the West.
2	What did British soldiers burn in Washington, D.C., in August 1814?	They burned the Capitol and the White House.
3	What event happened first, the burning of the Capitol and White House or the attack on Fort McHenry? Use dates from the passage to explain.	The burning of the Capitol and White House happened first, in August 1814. The attack on Fort McHenry happened in September 1814.
4	What did Francis Scott Key see at dawn, and what did he do because of what he saw?	He saw the large American flag still flying above Fort McHenry. He wrote a poem that later became the words of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

British ships taking American sailors angered many Americans and helped cause the United States to declare war on Britain. During the war, British soldiers burned the Capitol and White House in Washington, D.C. Later, the attack on Fort McHenry led Francis Scott Key to write the poem that became "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Accept equivalent descriptions of British impressment, trade interference, and support for Native American groups as causes. For the open response, check that the three required parts appear in the correct cause-to-event sequence.