

# War of 1812 Activities– Day 1

Tasks to complete today:

1. Cast your vote activity
2. War of 1812 overview video
3. Dolley Madison Letter (primary document)
4. War of 1812 interactive map (explore!)

## **1. Cast your vote** → Use the link below to explore the decision to go to war against the British.

<http://www.nps.gov/fomc/castyourvote/>

1. Listen to President Madison’s message
2. Select “Explore Perspectives” – Choose at least four individuals (watch their video, write/type their name and their viewpoint).
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
3. Select “Cast Your Vote” – fill out the form (do not provide your email address).
  - a. What was your decision?
4. Select “Vote Results” to review the voting decision.

## **2. War of 1812 Overview Video** → Watch the video in the link below and answer the following questions)

<http://www.teachertube.com/video/war-of-1812-19711>

The questions are in order but the video goes rather fast. Look over the questions before you begin the video. You may have to watch it more than once.

1. Name two causes of the war of 1812.
2. What did the War Hawks believe?
3. Name one War Hawk.
4. What were the three main offenses across the Canadian border?
5. Who was Tecumseh?
6. Why were the American Warships' Victories at sea a "stunning blow" to the British?

7. What did the British burn in Washington D.C.?
8. What fort was being bombed when Francis Scott Key wrote the Star Spangled Banner?
9. When was the Treaty of Ghent signed?
10. What did the Americans gain from this Treaty?
11. Who was the leader of the Americans when they defeated England at the Battle of New Orleans?

### **3. Dolley Madison Letter** → Read the letter below and answer the following questions.

## **Dolley to the Rescue**

**Dolley Madison** captured the events of her last few hours at the White House in a letter addressed to her sister and dated August 23-24, 1814.

Tuesday Augt. 23d. 1814.

Dear Sister

My husband left me yesterday mornng. to join Gen. Winder. He enquired anxiously whether I had courage, or firmness to remain in the President's house until his return, on the morrow, or succeeding day, and on my assurance that I had no fear but for him and the success of our army, he left me, beseeching me to take care of myself, and of the cabinet papers, public and private. I have since recd. two despatches from him, written with a pencil; the last is alarming, because he desires I should be ready at a moment's warning to enter my carriage and leave the city; that the enemy seemed stronger than had been reported, and that it might happen that they would reach the city, with intention to destroy it. . . . I am accordingly ready; I have pressed as many cabinet papers into trunks as to fill one carriage; our private property must be sacrificed, as it is impossible to procure wagons for its transportation. I am determined not to go myself until I see [Mr. Madison](#) safe, and he can accompany me, as I hear of much hostility towards him, . . . disaffection stalks around us. . . . My friends and acquaintances are all gone; Even Col. C with his hundred men, who were stationed as a guard in the enclosure . . . French John (a faithful domestic,) with his usual activity and resolution, offers to spike the cannon at the gate, and to lay a train of powder which would blow up the British, should they enter the house. To the last proposition I positively object, without being able, however, to make him understand why all advantages in war may not be taken.

Wednesday mornng., twelve o'clock. Since sunrise I have been turning my spy glass in every direction and watching with unwearied anxiety, hoping to discern the approach of my dear husband and his friends; but, alas, I can descry only groups of military wandering in all directions, as if there was a lack of arms, or of spirit to fight for their own firesides!

Three O'clock. Will you believe it, my Sister? We have had a battle or skirmish near Bladensburg, and I am still here within sound of the cannon! Mr. Madison comes not; may God protect him! Two messengers covered with dust, come to bid me fly; but I wait for him. . . . At this late hour a wagon has been procured, I have had it filled with the plate and most valuable portable articles belonging to the house; whether it will reach its destination; the Bank of Maryland, or fall into the hands of British

soldiery, events must determine.

Our kind friend, Mr. Carroll, has come to hasten my departure, and is in a very bad humor with me because I insist on waiting until the large picture of [Gen. Washington](#) is secured, and it requires to be unscrewed from the wall. This process was found too tedious for these perilous moments; I have ordered the frame to be broken, and the canvass taken out it is done, and the precious portrait placed in the hands of two gentlemen of New York, for safe keeping. And now, dear sister, I must leave this house, or the retreating army will make me a prisoner in it, by filling up the road I am directed to take. When I shall again write you, or where I shall be tomorrow, I cannot tell!!

**Website:**

[http://www.whha.org/whha\\_classroom/classroom\\_documents-1812\\_c.html](http://www.whha.org/whha_classroom/classroom_documents-1812_c.html)

### Dolley to the Rescue - Document Based Question

1. What kind of document is this?
2. On what days was the document written?
3. Who is Dolley writing the document to?
4. What did James Madison "beseech" (request) Dolley to take care of?
5. Madison send Dolley "despatches". What did the last one ask her to do?
6. In order to save the cabinet papers, what had to be sacrificed?
7. What did Dolley see with her spy glass?
8. Where did Dolley hope the wagon of valuables would make it to? Where did she fear it would end up?
9. What valuable thing did Dolley mention saving in the last paragraph?
10. How did she save it {details}?
11. Why was saving the portrait so important?
12. What was the tone of the letter (example: emotional, candid, desperate, calm)?-Choose several words to describe.

### **4. War of 1812 Interactive Map** → use any remaining time to explore a battle of the War of 1812.

Watch the videos, look at monuments, etc. **USE THIS TIME WISELY, STAY ON TASK!**

<http://www.1812battles.com/home.html>