

## What was the principal reason for the U.S. declaration of on Britain in 1812?

### Document 1 - 1807 Cartoon – “Intercourse or Impartial Dealings”



1. Identify who each of the individuals in the Cartoon represents (clue – two are European, one is an American).
2. What is happening to the man in the center of the cartoon? What do you think this represents?

### Document 2 – 1807 Cartoon, “O! This Cursed Ograbme”



1. Explain who or what each man in the cartoon represents?
2. What do you think “Ograbme means”?
3. What comment is the cartoonist making about U.S. trade policy?

**Document 3 – Henry Clay, a Democratic-Republican from Kentucky, Speech to the U.S. House of Representatives, 1810.**

“Some have said that we have nothing to gain by going to war with Britain. In its fortunes, we can not only expect benefits to ourselves but also injury done to the enemy. The conquest of Canada is in your power. I believe the militia of Kentucky is alone competent to place Montreal and Upper Canada at your feet. It is nothing to the British nation; is it nothing to the pride of her Monarch, to have the last of the immense North American possessions held by him since the beginning of his reign to be taken from him? Is it nothing to extinguish the torch that lights up Indian warfare against American settlers? Is it nothing to acquire the entire fur trade connected with that country?”

1. Explain three reasons why Henry Clay wanted to go to war with Britain in 1810.

**Document 4 – Democratic-Republican President James Madison asks for a Declaration of War against Britain, June 1812**

“British cruisers have been in the continued practice of violating the American flag on the great highway of nations, and of seizing and carrying off persons sailing under it. . . British cruisers have been in the practice also of violating the rights and the peace of our coasts. They hover over and harass our entering and departing commerce.

In reviewing the conduct of Great Britain toward the United States, our attention is necessarily drawn to the warfare just renewed by the savages on one of our extensive frontiers – a warfare that is known to spare neither age nor sex. They have for some time been in constant intercourse with British traders and forts.

We behold on the side of Great Britain a state of war against the United States, and on the side of the United States a state of peace toward Great Britain. . .

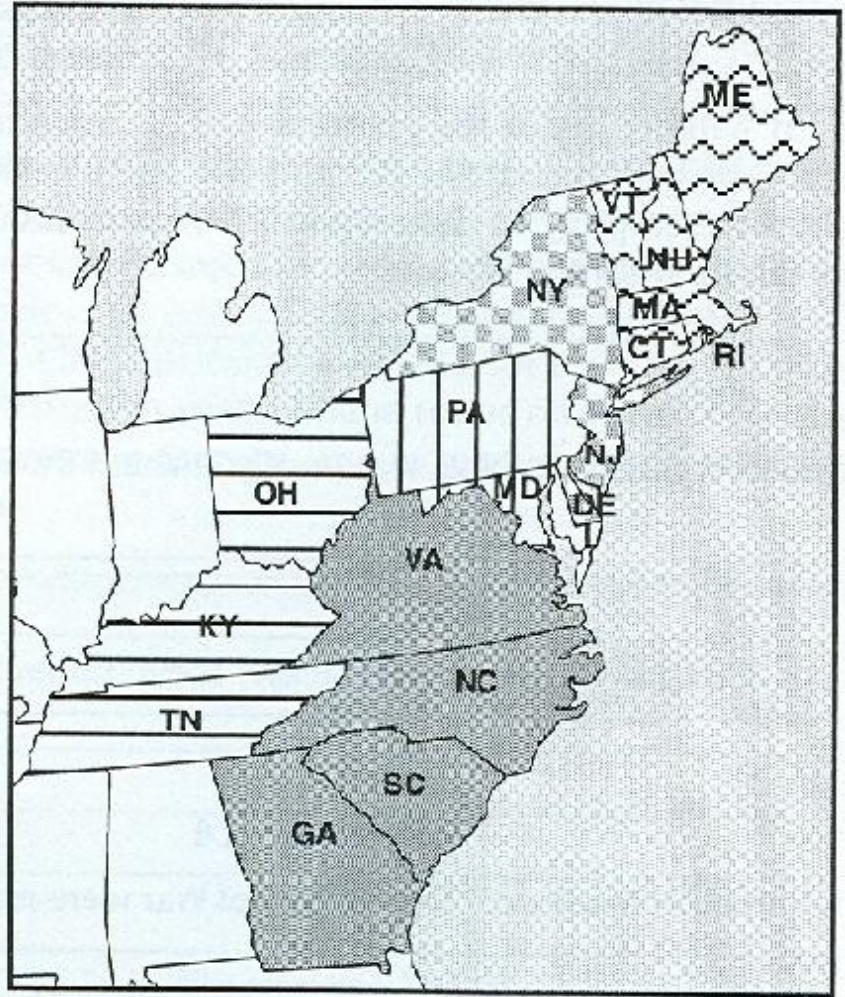
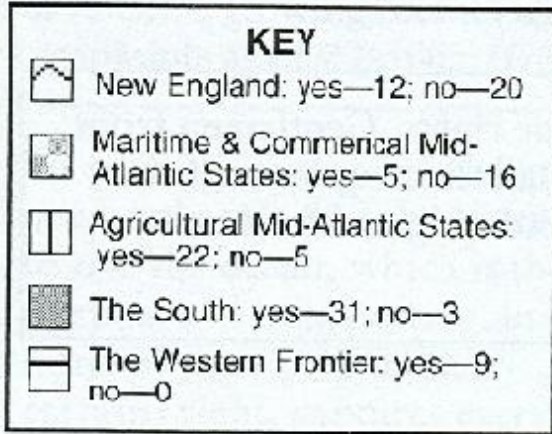
1. What were Madison’s grievances against Great Britain?

**Document 5 – Petition of Thirty-Four Federalist Congressmen, June 1812.**

“How will war upon the land protect commerce upon the ocean? How will Canada make up for wounded honor? How are our mariners benefited by a war which endangers those who are free and does nothing to free those who have been impressed? It is said that for honor we must go to war with Britain? Has not France also wronged us? With full knowledge of the wrongs inflicted by the French, should we really be aiding the French cause by engaging in war against the enemy of France? The undersigned cannot refrain from asking what the United States are to gain by a war with Britain. Will the conquest of Canada compensate the Middle States for the loss of its trade?”

1. Were the thirty four Federalist Congressmen for or against war against Britain? Why?

The U.S. House of Representatives vote for war, June 4, 1812.



**Should the United States Declare War on Britain?**

Which regions of the Country supported War most? Which regions were most opposed? Why?

Write a thesis in response to the question – What was the principal reason for the U.S. declaration of war against Britain in 1812? YOU MUST HAVE A CONCESSION CLAUSE.