THE WAR OF 1812
- 1812-1814
- Conflict between US + Great Britain
- Britain fought two wars at same time - War of 1812 + war against France (Napoleon)
- Afterwards, US enjoys a greater world presence

CAUSES OF THE WAR (1801-1812)
- Impressment
  - British forced thousands of US citizens to serve on their ships - needed men b/c fighting France
- British support of the Indian Nations against America
  - Citizens settle on Indian land - ILLEGAL
  - Indians organize under Tecumseh/The Prophet
  - The new Tecumseh/Britain alliance angers US
- Embargoes
  - Prohibits trade w/country(s)
  - Embargo Act (1807)
    - Banned imports/exports to ALL countries
    - Hoped to hurt Britain + France
    - FAILED/b/c ban has general ("All countries")
      - Created economic recession
      - Rescinded in 1809
  - Non-Intercourse Act (1809)
    - FAILED
- Nationalism/War Hawks
  - Strong feelings about your country
  - War Hawks (Henry Clay + John Calhoun)
  - Powerful group of Republicans demand war
  - Madison forced to declare war - June 18, 1812

USS CHESAPEAKE (1807)
- Ship is fired upon by HMS Leopard after captain of Chesapeake refused to give up American sailors
- Event angers US and War Hawks

THE WAR BEGINS
- US is unprepared for war
  - Poorly-trained men (7,000) - more British soldiers in America (14,000) than US men in America
  - Generals too old (many fought in Rev.)
  - 12 US ships in Navy - British have 800
  - US underestimates British/Indian strength
  - Indians had nothing to lose (would lose land if they didn't act against US)

THE "PRESIDENT'S MANSION"
- US is unprepared for war
**Key Events (1812-1814)**

- British blockades US coast (1812)
  - Hoped to cut off shipping
- US captures York and burns it (1813)
  - British ask US to stop burning cities
  - US ignores requests/burns two more Canadian villages
  - Britain promises to burn US cities when they invade

- Constitution sinks two British ships (1812)
  - "Old Ironsides" sinks Guerriere + Java
  - Constitution is still in use today (over 200 years old)

- Battle of Lake Erie (1813)
  - William Perry's navy defeats British
  - "We have met the enemy, and they are ours!"

- Battle of Tippecanoe (1813)
  - Tecumseh killed by General William Henry Harrison
  - Later became president (1840)
  - "Tippecanoe and Tyler, Too!"
  - Tecumseh's death ended the "Indian Nation" idea

- The Battle at Thames (1813)

**Mary Pickersgill Creates Our National Flag**

- At the time, no standard flag approved by Congress (7-9 different styles)
- Officers ask Mary to make two flags for Fort McHenry (One is HUGE - 30'x42')
- "Mary makes flags with help from mother and daughter- job gets so big that she moves to beer factory to finish"
- Paid $544.74 when finished on 8/19/1813 - took 6 weeks to complete

**Pre-War American Flags**

1775-1777: "Betsy Ross" Flag

1777-1795

1781-1819

1818-1819

1777-1796

1775-1777

**Mary Pickersgill Background**

- Born 2/12/1776 in Philadelphia
- Husband died in 1805
- Moved to Baltimore with mother and daughter in 1805
- Made ship flags before making Fort McHenry flags
**Key Events (1812-1814)**

- **Battle of Chesapeake Bay (1814)**
  - Strengthened British force burns Washington
  - Retaliation for burning of Canadian York (present-day Toronto)
  - Burned down White House + offices
  - Fire could be seen for 60 miles

- **Battle of Chesapeake Bay (1814)**
  - James Madison out defending the city
  - Dolley Madison escapes with "keepsakes"
  - Portrait of Washington
  - "Federalist Papers"
  - Army eats Madison's dinner, THEN burns the White House

- **British advance to Ft. McHenry + Baltimore**
  - Attacked it for days
  - Failed to capture it
  - Pickersgill's 30'x42' flag flew from fort
  - First time Congressionally-approved flag flies
  - Francis Scott Key writes song as he watches fort battle - "The right place at the right time."
  - "The Star-Spangled Banner" is born
    - British drinking song + Keys' lyrics

- **The Battle of New Orleans**
  - Fought after the treaty ending the War was signed
  - Pirates and frontiersmen fight alongside US troops
  - Made Andrew Jackson a national hero and household name

**End of the War**

- Madison tried to negotiate since 1812
- British decides war too costly
- Defeat of Napoleon in 1814 a key goal
- US NOT a key goal
- Treaty of Ghent ends the war (12/24/1814)
- NEITHER SIDE GAINED OR LOST
- No land traded ("Status Quo")
- Indians dealt major blow - NEVER RECOVERED

**Effects of the War**

- Gave the US a national identity
- Creates a hero in Andrew Jackson
- Federalists lose power after they try to convince Northern states to secede
- Republicans gain great power
- Control presidency for over 20 years
- Madison, Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson