

Directions: Close read the document below. SHOW THAT YOU WERE IN THE TEXT: circle unknown words/phrases, underline/highlight important information, & write a 1 sentence summary per paragraph. Answer the questions below in COMPLETE sentences.

Foreign Affairs: War, and a Doctrine

“Through the early years of the American republic, the foreign policies of five presidents were shaped by the following goals: neutrality (giving support to neither side in a foreign war), defense of U.S. rights as a sovereign or independent republic, and support of the people of Latin America in their struggle for freedom from foreign rule. President Washington recognized that the new nation, separated from Europe by the Atlantic Ocean, should not become involved in European conflicts.

The next two presidents, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, adopted Washington’s policy of neutrality. However, during Adams’s presidency, the French navy seized American ships at sea. French diplomats (identified only as X, Y, and Z) demanded bribes for their assistance in stopping the French government’s abuse of U.S. rights. Angered by the XYZ Affair, many Americans called for war. Their slogan was, ‘Millions for defense but not one cent for *tribute* (bribery).’ Yet Adams avoided an open declaration of war.

During Jefferson’s presidency, Napoleon crowned himself emperor of France. To fight Napoleon at sea and cut off supplies to Napoleon’s empire, British warships often stopped and searched U.S. merchant ships, removed cargo, and impressed (forced) American sailors into service in the British navy. To prevent further violation of U.S. rights, Jefferson persuaded Congress to place an embargo (to stop trade) on the shipment of American goods to Europe. But New England merchants and shipbuilders protested bitterly because the embargo badly hurt their business.

The fourth president, James Madison, also attempted to defend U.S. rights at sea without going to war. But an issue arose in the West. As more Americans settled on Native American lands, the Native Americans of the Great Lakes region were persuaded by their leader, Tecumseh, to fight a war against the settlers. Tecumseh’s forces had been supplied by Britain. Congress declared war against Great Britain in 1812. At first, the war went badly for the United States. British forces captured Washington, D.C., and set fire to government buildings, including the Capitol and the White House. A treaty ending the war did not say a word about U.S. neutral rights and did not award any land to either side.

After the War of 1812 (also called the ‘second war for independence’), Great Britain ended its much resented policy of stopping American ships and seizing their cargoes. The United States emerged from the war as a respected member of the community of nations.” ~ Adapted from U.S. History and Government

1. What were the foreign policies goals of the first five Presidents of the U.S.?

2. Why did President Washington believe the U.S. should not become involved in conflicts in Europe?

3. What did the French navy do during Adams’s presidency?

4. What was the XYZ affair? _____

5. What slogan did Americans adopt during the XYZ affair?

6. What did Napoleon crown himself during Jefferson’s Presidency?

7. What happened in Europe when Napoleon came to power in France?

8. Why did British warships often stop American ships?

9. What did the British do when they stopped American ships?

10. Define impressment.

11. How did President Jefferson respond to the British stopping American ships?

12. Define embargo.

13. Why were New Englanders upset by the embargo?

14. What did President James Madison attempt to do?

15. Who was Tecumseh?

16. Why was Tecumseh upset with American settlers?

17. What did Tecumseh declare?

18. Who did Tecumseh receive military assistance from?

19. So, what were the two main causes of the War of 1812?

20. What countries fought in the War of 1812?

21. What happened to the U.S. Capitol building during the War of 1812?

22. How did the War of 1812 end?

23. What is another name historians give to the War of 1812?

24. What policy did Great Britain end after the War of 1812?

25. How was the United States treated by other nations after the War of 1812?

26. Why do you think the War of 1812 is called “the Second War for Independence”?
