

NOTES: War Hawks; Water Victories in the War of 1812

War Hawks

- Desperately want to go to war with Great Britain
 - Most Outspoken: Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun, and Felix Grundy (South and West)
- Hoped to gain...
 - Revenge on Britain for seizing American ships and impressing American sailors
 - Conquer Canada
 - Seize Florida from Britain's ally
 - Stop Britain from arming the Indians
- New England merchants were against war with Britain
 - Did not want to pay taxes to fund a war
 - New England states did not want Britain to attack their sea ports
- Congress asks for a declaration of war = both houses vote "yes" = War of 1812

Unprepared for War

- Unprepared for War = Jefferson reduced the size of army and navy
 - Only had 16 ships in our Navy
 - ▶ Thank you, John Adams, for the Original Six Frigates!
 - Army was small and poorly equipped
 - Military officers were untrained
 - Soldiers were poorly trained and often deserted

War on the Water

- Britain blockades American ports - forces us to look North
 - Invade through Detroit, Niagara, and Montreal = all failures
- **USS Chesapeake**
 - Considered the "ugly duckling" of the original six
 - Two shipbuilders fought over how to design her - couldn't agree or make decisions = most building materials went to other frigates :-(
 - In 1807, attacked by *HMS Leopard* without warning
 - Early in War of 1812, commanded by **Stephen Decatur**
 - In 1813 - **James Lawrence** became Captain
 - ▶ **vs. HMS Shannon**
 - 15-minute battle in Boston Harbor
 - Chesapeake gets overpowered
 - Lawrence gives one final order: "Don't give up the ship!"
 - Lawrence is mortally wounded
 - Britain boards the boat, takes prisoners, and ship gets taken into service until 1819.
- **USS Constitution**
 - Nickname: "**Old Ironsides**"
 - ▶ Made of oak planks
 - ▶ Cannon balls bounce off
 - **vs. HMS Guerriere**

- ▶ 35-minute battle off coast of Nova Scotia
- ▶ Defeats HMS Guerriere
- **Battle of Lake Erie**
 - **Oliver Hazard Perry** designs and builds his own fleet of ships
 - ▶ Surprisingly wins - "We have met the enemy and they are ours."