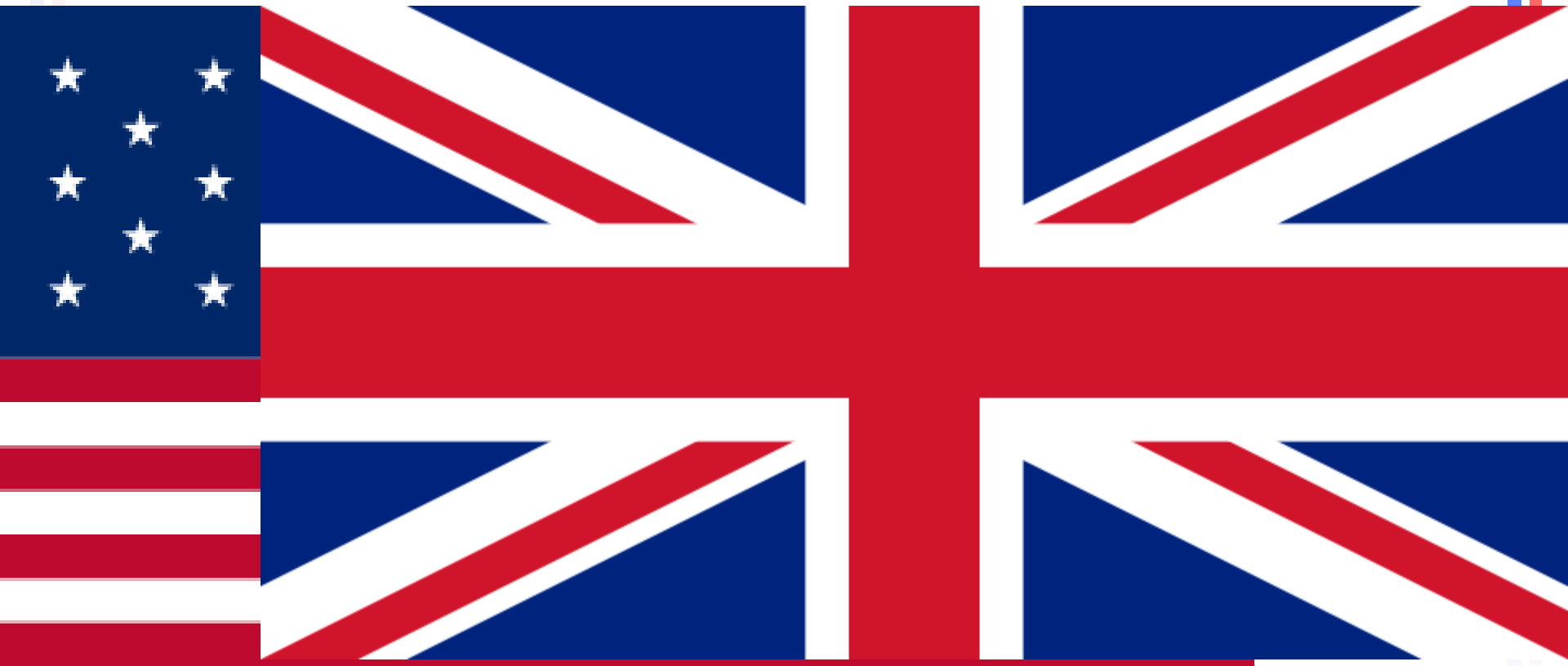# IV. War of 1812

- second war with Great Britain

- also called "Mr. Madison's War", "Second War for Independence", and "The Strange War"

1. Causes of the War of 1812

U.S. Causes

1. British capture 1,500 American ships that try to trade with France before 1812.

2. British "Impresses" thousands of American sailors into British Navy

3. British give guns to Chief Tecumseh and other western Indians to revolt against the U.S.

4. "War Hawks" want to capture Canada while British are fighting in Europe.

British Causes

1. British blockade trade to France and seize U.S. ships trading with France – Britain is fighting a desperate war against French dictator Napoleon who has already conquered most of Europe.

British backed down two weeks before the war. They did not want to fight the U.S. and Napoleon at the same time. Word did not get to America in time to stop the War of 1812.

Americans

Americans- Americans wanted to move further west and wanted to claim more land in Canada. They were angry that the British were seizing their ships.

British

British- They seized American ships and took the goods on it. They also forced Americans to work on British ships. They gave Native Americans guns and encouraged them to fight the Americans. They also blockaded American ports.

Native Americans

Native Americans- They were unhappy that the Americans were moving further west. They fought on the side of the British.

French

French- They were at war with Britain and traded with the Americans. They sometimes seized boats as well.

2. Impressment

- to get enough men to man the ships of their huge navy, the British impressed or kidnapped thousands of Englishmen

- Britain also stopped American ships and forced many American sailors to join the British navy

result

= Led to the War of 1812

3. Battle of Tippecanoe (1811)

- The Great Chief Tecumseh was trying to unite western tribes against the U.S.

results

= at Tippecanoe American troops beat Tecumseh's warriors

= American troops find that British were giving guns to Indians

V. Battles & Strategies of War of 1812

- neither side was ready for war

a. Great Britain – fighting desperate war against Napoleon in Europe

b. United States – very small and poorly trained army – Generals are old and poor – U.S. navy is good, but small

1. Old General Hull Surrenders Fort Detroit (1812)

- British capture the entire Northwest Territory

result

= American army improves with better Generals & soldiers

2. Battle of Lake Erie (1813)

- naval battle
- U.S. captures Lake Erie and cuts off British supplies
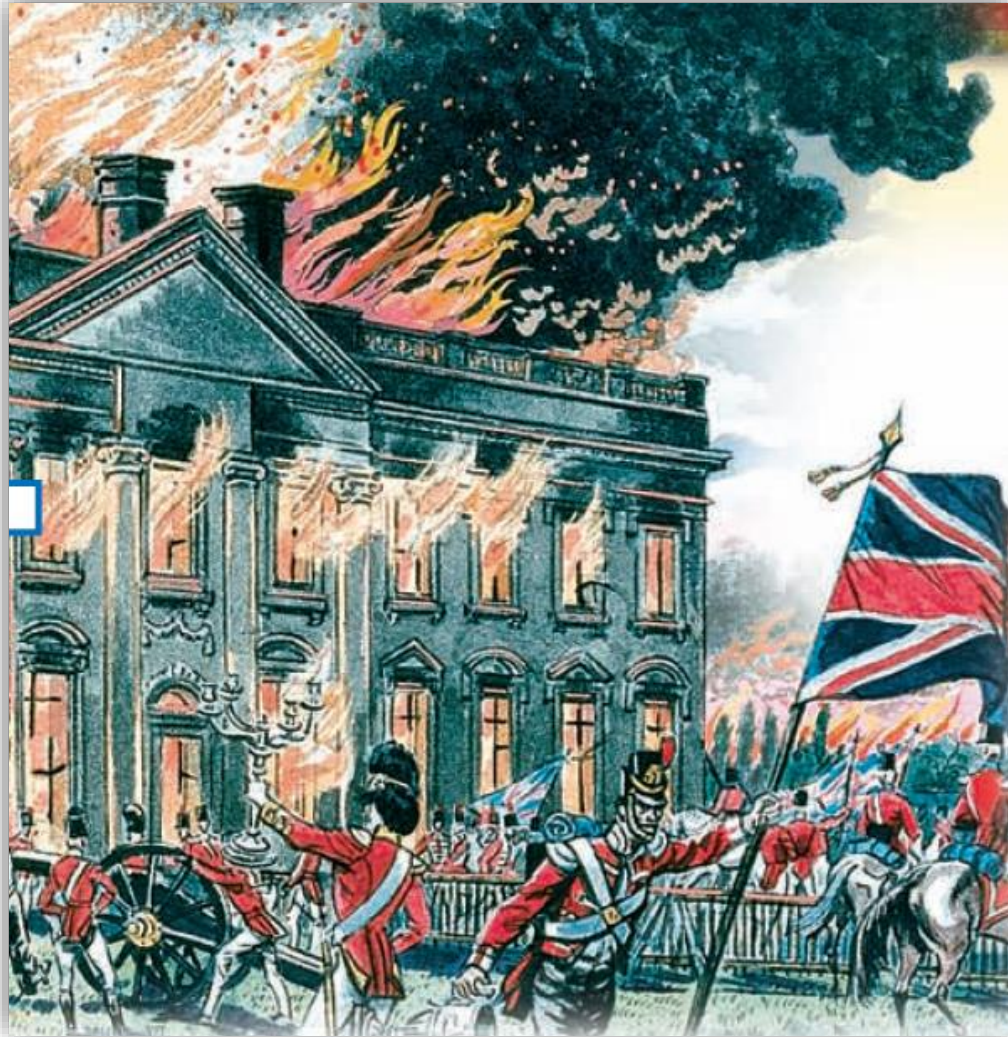
result

= U.S. recaptures Northwest Territory

3. War at Sea

- main British fleet is busy in Europe
- American ships are better built, with better crews

results

= American navy begins to defeat British ships

= USS Constitution becomes the most famous warship (nicknamed "Old Ironsides")

The Americans' worst humiliation came when British troops burned the White House and Capitol.

4. Napoleon Surrenders in Europe (1814)

- British send main army and naval fleet to America

results

= British capture and burn Washington D.C.

= British fail to capture Fort McHenry (outside Baltimore) – Francis Scott Key writes the "Star Spangled Banner"

= Treaty of Ghent ends War of 1812 (December 24, 1814)

The Treaty of Ghent ended the war.

- Both sides agreed to return to pre-war boundaries.

- A commission was set up to discuss any future boundary disputes.

- Impressment and American neutrality were not discussed.

5. Battle of New Orleans (January 8, 1815)

- fought 2 weeks after the Treaty of Ghent ended the war

- bloodiest battle of the war

results

= major U.S. victory (2,332 British are killed, wounded, or captured vs. 314 American)

= General Andrew Jackson becomes national hero & later President

Andrew Jackson, t... ...d was
...aken prisoner by ... ...his temerity

6. War of 1812 Ends (1815)

- British had backed down 2 weeks before war started

- bloodiest battle (New Orleans) was fought 2 weeks after peace

- New England refused to fight in the war

- no winner – no territory changed hands

MAJOR BATTLES

- 1812
- 1813
- 1814
- 1815
- Territory Boundaries

CANADA

Lake Champlain

Queenston Heights

York (Toronto)

Ft. Michilimackinac

Thames River
Detroit

Lundy's Lane

Ft. Dearborn

Baltimore (Ft. McHenry)
Sept. 1814

Raisin River
Massacre

Lake Erie

Washington, D.C.
Aug. 1814

North
Atlantic
Ocean

MEXICO

New Orleans

Gulf of Mexico

250   km
mi