Free Online Classroom Resources for the War of 1812

In addition to the tours and programs offered by the Erie Maritime Museum, classroom teachers may find the following resources useful in developing lesson plans for the War of 1812.

The **critically-acclaimed PBS documentary *The War of 1812*** is available to view, free of charge, online at www.pbs.org . The direct link to the video itself is: http://video.pbs.org/video/2089393539/ . There are also a variety of 5 – 10 minute short topics available on that website, as well as lesson plans that complement the two-hour documentary. Courtesy of WNED Buffalo NY, **the Erie Maritime Museum will provide hard copies of *The War of 1812* curriculum on request**. To pick up your copy, contact Linda Bolla at 814-452-2744 ext 219 or c-lbolla@pa.gov . Supplies are limited, one per school, please. For those schools that do not have the technology to view the video online during the school year, teachers may borrow *The War of 1812* DVD from the Museum Library for a maximum of three days; contact Linda to reserve use. Also available to borrow is the half-hour video, *1812 on the Niagara Frontier*, which explores key1812-era historic sites in the Niagara region.

The **USS *Constitution* Museum's award-winning online game, "A Sailor's Life for Me!"** is now available to play, free of charge. Students, families and educators are invited to join the fight for freedom on the high seas. Enlist with the sailors on board USS *Constitution* and travel back in time to prepare for the war at sea. Users can explore the ship, scrub a filthy deck, or even fire a cannon!

The website invites users to "Explore Old Ironsides" and "Meet Your Shipmates" to sample a sailor's life from this time period. History comes alive through detailed drawings by artist Stephen Biesty, the words of author Richard Platt, and animations by web developers Eduweb. To visit the website and begin your online enlistment, visit www.asailorslifeforme.org . Jump right in and play, or use the site map to access "Educator Resources". There are **activities and lessons to supplement each section of the game, ready-made timelines, as well as a search engine for lessons and activities**.

Eduweb has also designed a **web game for Fort McHenry called "Hold the Fort!"**: www.nps.gov/fomc/holdthefort/ . This is a 3-D web game, so it looks and feels like the games students play every day. It is free, but requires a free software download for it to run. Classroom use may require advance work with the school's tech team to permit Unity software through school computer network firewalls.

To commemorate the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, the **American Society of Marine Artists has released a seven-part video entitled *Naval War of 1812 Illustrated***. This entertaining educational documentary is available free online. The video was produced in conjunction with the U.S. Navy, the Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard, along with support from over 50 museums and historical institutions around the world. The video is conveniently divided into **"stand alone" topical segments**, and has a closed-caption feature. Some of the world's greatest maritime art, historical and contemporary, supports the narrative. High resolution files of all of **the artwork can be downloaded to print and use** in your classroom: www.naval-war-of-1812-illustrated.org/

☆ An **online version of the William L. Clements Library exhibit,** *The War of 1812: A Bicentennial Exhibit*, can be accessed at:
www.clements.umich.edu/exhibits/online/1812bicentennial/1812bicentennial.php
You can lead your students through 16 exhibit cases of exciting archival material, **teaching the War of 1812 through primary sources**! Each document is available as a high resolution JPG file that you can examine online, or save to your own computer to print. Resources include maps (there is a hand-drawn one of Erie Harbor made in 1812), art work, letters, and other significant handwritten documents.

☆ 2014 is the Bicentennial of **our Star-Spangled Banner**. The Key Cam website has some great resources for you to help teach and commemorate this important event. Visit www.keycam.com , where you can hear **audio files of our National Anthem**, presented by performers ranging from the Duke Ellington Orchestra to the U.S. Marine Band. Learn all about Francis Scott Key, and sing all four verses of the Anthem. The site also features a live web cam, so students can view Fort McHenry today. There is also **a Gallery to which you can upload and share your students' inspired work**!

☆ War of 1812 **classroom resources are available through Thinkport**. The website features maps and lesson plans for all grade levels, **including activities for K-3**:
www.warof1812.thinkport.org

☆ Finally, don't forget to visit the **websites sponsored by the United States Navy**.   Here are some of the best for **ready-to-use classroom resources**:

www.history.navay.mil/Special%20highlights/1812/index.html

www.navy.mil/1812/index.asp

www.usna.edu/War1812/index.php