

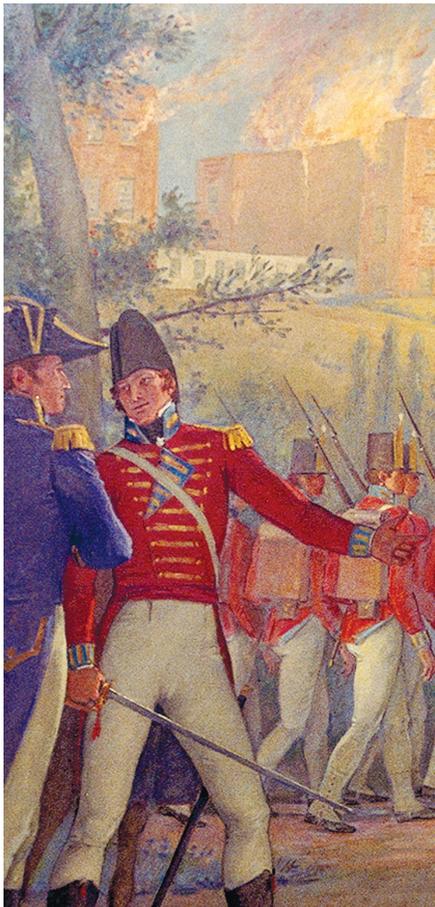
WAR OF 1812

SCAVENGER HUNT



200 years ago, on August 24, 1814, the U.S. Capitol was burned by an invading British army.

Really? Yes, really! As you complete this scavenger hunt, you will learn more about the second war between the United States and Great Britain.



(DETAIL) ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

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Begin in Alcove One, "Founding a Republic, 1789-1815."

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1 There are many paintings and other works of art in the Capitol that tell the story of America. One of the paintings that decorates a hallway in the Capitol shows British troops near the Capitol which is in flames. **Look for a copy of the painting.** Notice the bright colors of the uniforms worn by the soldiers.

2 Most Indians fought with the British. They wanted to keep their land from being taken by the new American settlers. **Find a drawing of Indians defeated at Fallen Timbers and the Thames River.**

3 The fighting began in Canada in 1813. The United States troops burned some government buildings in York (now Toronto), Canada. In response, the British sent troops to destroy America's public buildings. Look at the panel surrounding the model in the center of the alcove. **Can you find a copy of a painting showing sightseers in front of the ruined Capitol?**

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Move to the document cases in the front of Exhibition Hall.

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This exhibit is called "A More Perfect Union." **Where is that phrase is from?** You are right! It's found in the introduction (called the preamble) to the Constitution!

(over) --->

Find the cases under the heading “Common Defense.”

4 Go to the first case on the left of “**Common Defense**” which is labeled “**Congress Declares War.**” A young member of Congress, Henry Clay, thought that the U.S. should go to war with Great Britain. He was angry when the British removed sailors from U.S. boats and made them work for the British Navy. President James Madison agreed with Henry Clay. **Find a letter James Madison wrote to Congress. Can you read his signature?**

5 The next case, “**The Treaty of Ghent,**” shows the agreement that was signed to end the war. Ghent is a city in Belgium, located in Europe. When you return home, look for Ghent, Belgium on a map. **Find the copy of the agreement, called a treaty.**

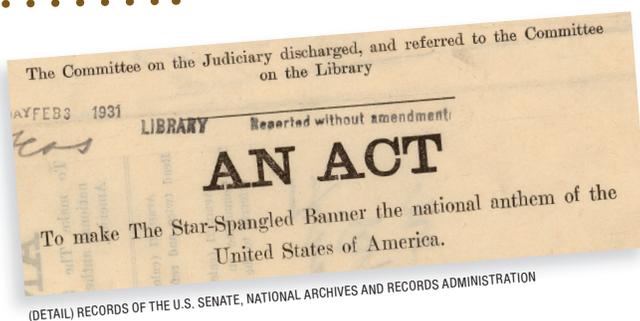
6 To the right is the case labeled “**Moving the Seat of Government.**” The British burned the Capitol and other public buildings in August, 1814. People who lived in Washington, D.C. were worried that the government would move to another city. They paid to have a temporary building constructed. Congress met there for four years until the Capitol was rebuilt. **Find a photo of the brick Capitol.**



Go to the next set of cases labeled “Unity.”

7 The first case in this next section, called “**The National Anthem,**” includes a very important poem written by Frances Scott Key. He saw the U.S. flag flying after a battle with the British in 1814. The words of his poem were added to a tune.

Today we know the words and song as our national anthem. But the **Star Spangled Banner** did not become our national song until 1931! John Linthicum was a member of Congress who suggested that the song become our national anthem. **Find his photo.**



Now that you have finished the scavenger hunt, go to the desk at the entrance of Exhibition Hall to receive a **special War of 1812 sticker.**