

**Module 4: Creating a New Nation - 1788 to the 1840s**  
**Topic 3 Content: Causes of the War of 1812**


**Introduction**

**Causes of the War of 1812**

Impressment

Native Americans

**Introduction**



Upset with the actions of the British, the United States declared war in 1812. In this interactivity, click each of the tabs to learn about the two causes of the War of 1812.

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**Impressment**

**Causes of the War of 1812**

**Impressment**

Impressment



**Native Americans**

During the early 1800s, British naval ships continued a practice of stopping American merchant ships and impressing American sailors. Impressment occurred when individual sailors were taken from their ship and forced to be sailors on British navy ships against their will. The British Navy needed to use impressment in order to keep up its strength as it continued to fight the French. America reached a tipping point when the British Navy started stationing ships in American waters to conduct searches and impress sailors.

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### Topic 3 Content: Causes of the War of 1812

#### Native Americans

**Causes of the War of 1812**

**Impressment**

**Native Americans**



**Native Americans**

Americans were frustrated with what they saw as British encouragement of Native American violence against American settlers. The British saw the Native American tribes as a means to create a buffer or barrier between the United States and the British colony of Canada. The British likely gave support to the Native Americans as a way of maintaining the buffer. This support angered Americans, who felt they had a right to take the land from the Native Americans, even though the Native Americans were trying to protect their land.

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