

Teaching American History Project

Lesson Title: President Madison's speech to Congress from Peter Rodrigues

Length of Class Period: 45 minutes

Inquiry:

How did President Madison build a case with Congress to go to war with Great Britain?

Objectives:

Students will identify specific reasons and justifications (as laid out by President Madison) for the United States to go to war with Great Britain. They will then connect Madison's speech with the U.S. declaration of war on England, starting the War of 1812.

Materials:

- President Madison's War message to Congress, June 1, 1812. This document can be found at the following website:
EDSITEment: marcopolo
http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson_images/lesson573/WarMsgEdited.pdf

Activities:

Students are given a copy of "President Madison's Speech to Congress". The teacher will read the introduction. The rest of the document will be read as a class. The teacher will be available for clarification and discussion throughout the reading. When the document has been read as a class, students are posed the inquiry question: **How did President Madison build a case with Congress to go to War with Great Britain in his message? Provide at least 3 examples from the reading.** Students may need the remainder of class time to complete their response. Each student is responsible for at least a paragraph responding to the inquiry question.

Class discussion: The teacher will take 10-15 minutes asking students to respond and discuss the question. Students should leave the class with a clear understanding of the justifications for the War of 1812.

Assessment:

Students are assessed formally on the completion of their Guided Reading Question. They should have thoughtfully answered all parts of the question and provided 3 clear examples that support Madison's case for war.

Connecticut Framework Performance Standards:

- 1.1 – Demonstrate an understanding of significant events and themes in United States history.
- 2.2 – Interpret information from a variety of primary and secondary sources (maps, charts, graphs, images and print materials).
- 3.1 – Use evidence to identify, analyze and evaluate historical interpretations.