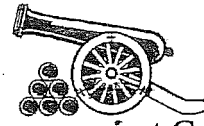


War?



When President James Madison signed a declaration of war against Great Britain on June 18, 1812, there was much disagreement in Congress about the action. Below are summaries of the arguments both for and against the 1812 declaration:

Yea!	Nay!
<p>Since the end of the Revolutionary War, the British have been trying to make life difficult for the U.S. They have never withdrawn from American lands near the Great Lakes, they have supported Indian uprisings against us, and they have refused trade agreements that would allow our merchants success.</p> <p>In recent years the situation has worsened. Because they have been fighting the French to contain the spread of Napoleon's empire, the British have needed ships and sailors, whom they have been impressing from us!</p> <p>We have tried negotiating with them about the problems and have even tried an embargo on their food imports, but nothing has worked. War is the only reasonable option we have at this point.</p>	<p>The War Hawks say they would like to see us go to war to stop British abuses, but this war is unnecessary. It will only serve to further damage our ailing economy.</p> <p>Though our country has officially remained neutral in the English-French conflict, we had been sending needed supplies to both sides, despite orders from both not to help their enemy, leading to the impressments. Our response, an embargo of supplies bound for Europe, accomplished nothing beyond its negative effects on our merchants and economy.</p> <p>Rather than fighting the English, we would do better to resume peaceful trade with them. We could not only save the cost of war but could also help bring an end to our nation's serious economic problems.</p>

What were the **CAUSES** of the War of 1812? _____

What efforts had the U.S. made to avoid war? _____

Many of those in Congress who opposed the war were from New England states. Why do you think this was the case? _____

Why do you think President Madison was ultimately successful in getting Congress to approve his declaration of war? _____
