



# “The Importance of the War of 1812 for Michigan”

Sponsored by  
Michigan Council for History Education  
& the Michigan Commission on the  
Commemoration of the Bicentennial of  
the War of 1812

**WHAT?** This essay contest will empower you and your students to learn how the War of 1812 influenced Michigan and the Old Northwest. Known as the “Forgotten Conflict” and the “Second American Revolution,” the War of 1812 shaped the future of Michigan and its people.

**WHY?** The bicentennial of the War of 1812 offers an excellent teaching opportunity for helping students learn about the impact of the War of 1812 on the United States and how the people of Michigan were affected by the war. This essay contest provides an opportunity for students to use local resources available in libraries and museums to tell stories about how the War of 1812 helped shape the future development of Michigan.

**WHO?** This contest is open to any Michigan student in 3rd through 12th grade in public, private, parochial and home school settings. Only ONE entry is permitted from each student. The entries will be grouped into grade appropriate categories: 3rd-5th grades; 6th-8th grades; and 9th-12th grades.

**HOW?** Encourage students to independently research key events and personalities of Michigan, the Old Northwest and Upper Canada, using resources available at local libraries, museums and the internet to learn about this topic.

**WHEN?** The entry deadline is Tuesday, April 3, 2012, the 200th anniversary of President Madison’s nomination of William Hull as Brigadier General.

CONTEST INFORMATION:

With the support of the Michigan Council for History Educations, there will be three first place (\$100) and three second place (\$50) cash prizes awarded.

All students entering the contest are invited to the War of 1812 Bicentennial Essay Contest Awards Ceremony at 2:00 p.m., Friday, June 1, 2012 in the Michigan Historical Museum Auditorium, 702 W. Kalamazoo Street, Lansing.

A photo of the winning students will appear in an upcoming issue of "Ends & Beginnings," the quarterly newsletter of the Michigan Council for History Education and will be posted on the Michigan War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission website [www.michigan.gov/war1812](http://www.michigan.gov/war1812) and the MCHE website [www.michiganhistoryed.org](http://www.michiganhistoryed.org). A press release will award recipient names will be issued to local media.

**Guidelines:**

- Maximum of 1,000 words
- Text must be at least 11-point font
- Essay must be typed/computer-written
- Double space with one-inch margins
- Provide original essay,with entry form, found below, stapled to top.
- Provide three (3) additional copies without entry form. Do not write name on the copies.
- Each paper copy must be stapled in the upper left-hand corner
- Do not place essays in folders or binders, etc.
- Include footnotes & bibliography or sources (Not included in word count)
- All students entering the contest will receive a Certificate of Participation

**Judging Criteria**

- 15 points Creativity and originality
- 15 points Cites references to historical documents & events
- 10 points Responds specifically and thoughtfully to theme
- 10 points Presents ideas clearly and effectively with appropriate spelling and grammar
- \*\*Ten point deduction if essay exceeds 1,000 words.
- 50 points MAXIMUM

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**“The Importance of the War of 1812 for Michigan” Essay Contest  
Student Entry Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signing below, you certify that this essay is your original work and all sources are properly cited.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Please attach this form on top of the first page of your original essay. (Do not include with the copies.) Do not write your name or any other identifying information on the pages of the essay. Please mail three copies AND the original essay to:*

David Hales  
 Social Studies Consultant  
 Wayne RESA  
 33500 Van Born Road Box 807  
 Wayne, MI 48184-24977  
 For more information, contact Mr. David Hales at 734-334-1311 or [halesd@resa.net](mailto:halesd@resa.net) .