

## Relations with the United States: Role Play

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Background

After the Thirteen Colonies had gained independence from Britain, many issues remained unresolved. Both the Americans and the British had not completely fulfilled the terms of the Treaty of Paris, the British were at war in Europe, and their naval policies were infuriating the Americans. Also, the First Nations had lost protection of their land rights. Eventually, dissatisfaction among Americans grew enough to spark war. The British were not certain of support from either their own colonists or the First Nations.

### Task

In a small group, write and present a short play that shows the motivations for the various parties to become involved in the War of 1812 in North America. Present a story that allows your characters to express what their stance is toward the other sides involved, their reasons for becoming involved, and their hopes for the outcome.

### Purpose

Your purpose is to help your audience understand the different reasons that caused people to join the conflict, and which side of the conflict to join, if they had some choice about that decision.

### Steps

1. Decide on the setting and characters of your play. Consider having representation of Americans, Upper and Lower Canadians, First Nations, British army and/or government members, and Black Americans. Have each group member select a character to play.
2. Establish what kind of story your play will show. Consider brainstorming or improvising in character to generate ideas, and then outline the general plot of the play.
3. Write the play, with directions for how it should be performed.
4. Create or find any necessary props or costumes.
5. Rehearse your play, and then perform it for the class. Ensure that you have learned it well enough to perform using expression in your voice and body language.

