

# HISTORICAL ANALYSIS – Cause & Effect... *the War of 1812*

## **Skill 1: Historical Causation** (cause and effect/impact)

Historical thinking involves the ability to identify, analyze, and evaluate the relationships among multiple historical causes and effects, distinguishing between those that are long-term and proximate, and among coincidence, causation, and correlation.

### Proficient students should be able to ...

- Compare causes and/or effects, including between short-term and long-term effects.
- Analyze and evaluate the interaction of multiple causes and/or effects.
- Assess historical contingency by distinguishing among coincidence, causation, and correlation, as well as critiquing existing interpretations of cause and effect.

### Reminders About Causation

Historians often debate the causes and effects of events, because history is complex and filled with multiple variables. Some facts are facts: black and white. But most of history is gray: up for interpretation. When analyzing causation, we must remember that we are making a judgment and defending our viewpoint. And, remember... every viewpoint has an opposing or differing viewpoint. Analyzing the effects of historical events requires similar skill. It is not only listing ways the event impacted the nation, for example, it is analyzing historical significance of those effects. Did the effect stem directly from the event? Or, was it simply a coincidence in time and place? Was the effect short term or long term? Which cause was most significant? Which effect was most significant? Etc.

Cause...

Cause...

Cause...

The most significant cause of this war was:  
Because...

WAR OF 1812

The most significant impact of this war was:  
Because...

Effects...

Extension: On a separate sheet of paper, write a thesis in response to the following prompt: To what extent was the War of 1812 inevitable?