Image 1 Background Info

The 1840 election for president put William Henry Harrison against Martin Van Buren. Many Historians call this the first modern election. William Henry Harrison ran for himself. Before, candidates would let others convince people to vote for them. Many different items were created with William Henry Harrison’s face and slogans. This included campaign ribbons, special newspapers, songs and the cream pitcher shown below.

Related Source: William Henry Harrison campaign cream pitcher

William Henry Harrison campaign cream pitcher, 1840, Ohio History Connection
During the election of 1840, The democrats called William Henry Harrison a country bumpkin. They said “he will sit the remainder of his days in his log cabin”. Harrison’s campaign turned this around and made him look like a down-to-earth man of the people. They used the log cabin as one of their symbols. This didn’t tell the whole story. Harrison was from a wealthy Virginia family and went to college. It still worked. Harrison beat Martin Van Buren to become the 9th president of the U.S.A.

Related Source: "Old Tippecanoe has Come Out in the West” Print
What’s the Big Picture?

Source Guide – 1C

Image 1
William Henry Harrison led U.S. military forces before and during the war of 1812. He took part in the U.S. victories at the Battle of Tippecanoe, the Battle of the Thames, and the Siege of Fort Meigs. Harrison would use his military fame to impress voters when he ran for president in 1840. He and his running mate, John Tyler, used the slogan “Tippecanoe and Tyler, Too”.

Related Source: 'The Life and Public Service of William H. Harrison' broadside
What’s the Big Picture?
Source Guide – 1D

Image 1
Image 1 Background Info

On September 10, 1813, the U.S. Navy, led by Admiral Oliver Hazard Perry, defeated the British in the Battle of Lake Erie. After the battle, Perry sent a message to Major General William Henry Harrison that said “We have met the enemy and they are ours”. This victory helped to change the course of the War of 1812. It gave the U.S. control of the Great Lakes and allowed them to transport troops across Lake Erie to British-held Canada.

Related Source: ‘Perry at the Battle of Lake Erie’ print
A Boxing Match, or Another Bloody Nose for John Bull.
Image 2 Background Info

During the War of 1812, British ships would attack American ships and towns up and down the coast of the United States. On September 5, 1813 the U.S. ship Enterprise sighted the British ship Boxer off of the coast of Main. After 30 minutes of fierce fighting, the Enterprise won and captured the Boxer. Both captains of the U.S. and British ships died during the battle, and both were given a state funeral in Main. This naval victory was celebrated in newspapers in the U.S.

Related Source: ‘Enterprise and Boxer’ print

Enterprise and Boxer, 1815-1870, The Library of Congress
A Boxing Match, or Another Bloody Nose for John Bull.
Image 2 Background Info

During the War of 1812, many political cartoons were printed in newspapers. They expressed people’s thoughts and feelings on how the war was going. ‘John Bull’ was often used as a symbol for Great Britain.

Related Source: ‘Johnny Bull and the Alexandrians’ political cartoon

Johnny Bull and the Alexandrians, 1814, The Library of Congress
What’s the Big Picture?

Source Guide – 2C

Image 2

A Boxing Match, or Another Bloody Nose, for John Bull.
Image 2 Background Info

James Madison was the 4th president of the United States. On June 18th, 1812, Madison signed a declaration of war again Great Britain. James Madison and the rest of the U.S. government had to leave the capitol on Aug. 24, 1814 when British soldiers burned much of Washington D.C. Important U.S. victories in other battles on land and sea convinced American and British officials to sign the treaty of Ghent on Dec. 24, 1814. This ended the War of 1812. The War of 1812, Many political cartoons were printed in newspapers. They expressed people’s thoughts and feelings on how the war was going. ‘John Bull’ was often used as a symbol for Great Britain.

Related Source: James Madison portrait
Image 2 Background Info

The War of 1812 had different causes. Great Britain was at war with France. They told the U.S and other neutral countries that they must get special permission from them before they could trade in French-owned ports. This angered U.S. merchants. Another cause was the British practice of impressment. British sailors would take U.S. sailors and force them to sail and fight on British Ships. During this time, Britain also encouraged American Indians who were fighting the U.S. as more settlers were moving into the Northwest territories. These causes combined led the United States to declare war in 1812.

Related Source: Address of Congress on the War with Great Britain

[Image of the War of 1812 Congressional Address, 1812, State Library]