

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_



**Directions:** After reading the background information and examining the sources provided , answer the questions below.

**Background Information:** *The War of 1812 was a conflict fought from 1812 to 1815 between the United States and Britain (including British North America, in present-day Canada) over issues of trade, territorial expansion, and Indigenous sovereignty along the North American frontier.*

### **Textbook A:**

The war did not come at a good time for the British, who were still at war in Europe. However, Britain was not willing to meet American demands to avoid the war. Providing Native Americans with support was one way of protecting Canada against an American invasion.

When the war began, Americans were confident that they would win. It soon became apparent that the United States was not prepared for war. Jefferson's spending cuts had weakened American military strength. The navy had only 16 warships ready for action. The army also was small, with fewer than 7,000 men.

In the first days, the British set up a blockade of the American coast...By 1814 the British navy had 135 warships blockading American ports. After reinforcing their troops, the British were able to close off all American ports by the war's end.

### **Textbook B:**

In 1812, war was declared between England and the United States. For three years the cruel strife went on, and much innocent and brave blood was spilled on the soil of Canada, where the people had done nothing to cause the war, their only fault being that they preferred to live as a province of Great Britain, rather than join their lot to the States, which had succeeded in throwing off the control of the Mother Country.

All the States were not in favor of the war; but there was a large party, the ruling party then, which hated England, and which had, for several years, been anxious to pick a quarrel with her.

This party talked a great deal about liberty, and yet had no sympathy with England in her contest with Napoleon, for the liberty not only of Europe but also of her own island kingdom. Great Britain tried to satisfy the complaints of these discontented Americans, but with no avail ; their Congress declared war on the 18th of June, 1812, and England was forced on her part to declare war on the 13th of the following October.

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**Your Task:** Students were provided with with 2 citations or source data for the textbooks on the previous page and were tasked with inferring which the source data or citation matched with which textbook. Evaluate the student's response below:

Davidson, J. W. (2007). *Prentice Hall: America, History of our Nation*. Pearson-Prentice Hall.

Jeffers, J. F. (1894). *History of Canada*. Canada Publishing Company

### Student Response

Textbook A is definitely the Canadian textbook from J.F. Jeffers due to the clear bias it has towards the British and Canada. The whole point of the text is to show how powerful the British were, despite the war not coming "at a good time" for them. Moreover, it portrays the Americans as aggressors and the British simply standing up for themselves and refusing to "meet American demands". The textbook continues on to describe how the Americans were overconfident and in reality, were actually quite weak (The textbook describes cuts to military spending and their consequences). To finish the author describes how complete, total, and effective the British blockade was, clearly showing bias towards the British and trying to show how powerful they are.

Emerging

Developing

Proficient

Extending

Explanation for evaluation: