

## Teaching with Primary Sources Lesson Outline

**Grade Level:** High School (11-12)

**Standard(s) or Objectives:** CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.1: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole.  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including analyzing how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term over the course of a text (e.g., how Madison defines faction in Federalist No. 10).

### Library of Congress or Morris Special Collections Resources:



“The fall of Washington--or Maddy in full flight,” 1814

<https://www.loc.gov/item/94507312/>

### Topic Background:

The Burning of Washington DC was perpetrated by the British during the War of 1812 on August 24, 1814. British forces, under General Robert Ross, captured the nation's capital and ordered the burning of Washington in revenge of the crushing defeat for the British in the Battle of York in which Americans sacked the capital of Upper Canada, York (Toronto). The British hoped that the retaliatory burning of Washington would embarrass and demoralize the American nation.

Excerpted from: <http://www.american-historama.org/1801-1828-evolution/burning-of-washington.htm>

### Source(s) Used:

4 October 1814

President Madison and one of his Ministers, both with bundles of papers, flee (right to left) from Washington watched by Americans, and by two amused British sailors (right). Behind (right) flames and heavy smoke rise from the burning buildings. An American ship is at anchor outside the town. The following link includes text for each character's comments:

[http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection\\_online/collection\\_object\\_details.aspx?assetId=76848001&objectId=1480960&partId=1](http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online/collection_object_details.aspx?assetId=76848001&objectId=1480960&partId=1)

\*\*Boney” refers to Napoleon Bonaparte.

Excerpted from:

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### Answer Key:

Question 1: D

Question2: B

“The fall of Washington--or Maddy in full flight,” 1814



Questions:

- 1) Which of the following textual evidence best supports the claim: Some Americans were critical of the War of 1812 with Great Britain. (CCSS-RH11-12.1)
  - a. “Plan for laying England under Contribution, Project for the conquest of Canada, Correspond[ence] with Boney”
  - b. "Who would have thought of this Man! to oblige us to run from the best Cabinet supper I ever order 'd—I hope you have taken care of Boney's promisyary notes. The people won't stand any thing after This."
  - c. "Aye Messmate, he is a famous fighter, over a bottle of Shampain, why he'd have played Hell with us if we had let him sit down to Supper!"
  - d. "The great Washington fought for Liberty, but we are fighting for shadows, which if obtained could do no Earthly good, but this is the blessed effects of it."
  
- 2) What does the American who says, “I suppose this is what Maddis calls benefiting his Country!” mean? (CCSS-RH11-12.4)
  - a. The burning of Washington will benefit Americans during the war.
  - b. The burning of Washington is President Madison’s fault.
  - c. The burning of Washington was an accident by the American ship in the harbor.
  - d. The burning of Washington was Napoleon Bonaparte’s idea.