

Battle of New Orleans (War of 1812)

The bloody Battle of New Orleans, the deadliest battle of the War of 1812, actually occurred after the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in late 1814, which put an end to hostilities between the Americans and British. Word of the war's end, however, failed to reach New Orleans in time to prevent the battle.

On January 8, 1815, British General Edward Pakenham and over 10,000 British soldiers and Native warriors attacked Andrew Jackson and his well fortified army of over 5,000 men at Chalmette, about five miles downriver from New Orleans. The object was to separate Louisiana from the rest of the United States. American soldiers, aided by pirates under the command of Jean Lafitte, cut down wave after wave of British soldiers from behind impenetrable defenses. Pakenham was killed in the battle and the British suffered over 2,000 total casualties. The American victory served as the last armed conflict of the War of 1812.

Although the battle had no impact on the war, it did elevate Andrew Jackson to a national hero and eventually propelled him to the White House.

1. The Battle of New Orleans occurred...

- A. at the beginning of the War of 1812.
- B. in the middle of the War of 1812.
- C. toward the end of the War of 1812.
- D. after the War of 1812.

2. The British objective in the War of 1812 was to...

- A. capture Andrew Jackson.
- B. separate Louisiana from the United States.
- C. make Andrew Jackson a hero.
- D. bring the war back to England.

3. What was the effect of the Battle of New Orleans?

- A. The British decided to continue the war
- B. Many Americans were killed or wounded
- C. Andrew Jackson became a national hero
- D. Louisiana was separated from America

4. Which is NOT true about the Battle of New Orleans?

- A. It was a major British victory
- B. It was the last armed conflict of the War of 1812
- C. It involved pirates
- D. It occurred after the Treaty of Ghent

5. How many soldiers did the British send into battle?

- A. 2,000
- B. 5,000
- C. Over 10,000
- D. The passage doesn't say

6. What does “elevate” mean in the following sentence:

Although the battle had no impact on the war, it did elevate Andrew Jackson to a national hero...

- A. Decide
- B. Raise
- C. Tell
- D. Manage

7. What best describes the Battle of New Orleans?

- A. An important and deadly British victory
- B. An important and deadly American victory
- C. A deadly British victory that was unimportant in the war
- D. A deadly American victory that was unimportant in the war.