War of 1812

Background

- War between Britain and the USA
- Bad relations had continued since US independence

Causes

- Napoleonic Wars: Britain vs France
- France imposed a naval blockade on Europe to weaken Britain
- Britain retaliated with a naval blockade of France
- The blockade damaged USA trade with France causing hostility to Britain

Main Events

- USA declared war on Britain in 1812
- Invaded British North American colonies: Upper and Lower Canada
- USA believed the British Colonies to be weakly defended
- Most of the US attacks were in Upper Canada
- 1813- US attack on Montreal- US troops were defeated at the Battle of Chateauguay

Reactions in British Colonies

1. Upper Canada
    - Most of the population were Loyalists
    - Supported the the Britsh Mother country and helped defend the colony against US attacks

2. Lower Canada
    - Catholic Church supported the Britsh mother country: urged the Canadien population to support Britain
    - Seigneurs and Canadiens supported the British mother country

Native British Alliance

- Native people allied themselves with Britain
- They feared loss of control of land from US westward expansion
- Native warriors played a crucial role in defending the British colonies from US attacks

Treaty of Ghent 1814

- Ended the war
- Restored territories to prewar positions