

Grassroots

“The colonial assemblies in the Thirteen Colonies had encouraged grassroots democratic institutions such as town meetings,”

Made up of ordinary people.

Merchant ship

“In contrast, merchant ships paid sailors four times what the Royal Navy did.”

A ship used for commercial transportation of goods.

Impress

“There were never enough volunteers for the Royal Navy, so men were impressed into service. Not surprisingly, there were many deserters.

To force someone to serve in the navy or army.

Embargo

“Following the incident involving the Chesapeake and the Leopard, President Jefferson declared an embargo on trade with Britain.”

An order prohibiting ships from entering or leaving a country's ports; a suspension of trade, usually in anticipation of war.

Expansionism

“Americans in favour of expansionism had been fighting the First Nations south of the Great Lakes for decades, ever since the Treaty of Paris in 1783.”

The policy of expanding a nation's territory, usually through military aggression.

Orator

“Tecumseh was a skilled military leader and a great orator.”

An eloquent public speaker.

Militia

“Unfortunately, the militia was often poorly trained and badly equipped, so they tended to panic in battle or get sick.”

A body of civilian soldiers called out for service only during emergencies.

Alliance

“Brock also understood that the key to holding Upper Canada was the British-First Nations alliance.”

A relationship formed for mutual benefit.

Ally

“One of his key allies was Tecumseh.”

A partner with whom one joins forces for mutual benefit.

Loyalists

“To some extent, the British government laid the foundation for Upper Canada’s upper class in the way it treated Loyalists following the American Revolution.”

Residents of the Thirteen Colonies who remained loyal to Britain during the American Revolution.

Garrison

“The Americans had a strong garrison and outnumbered the British-First Nations alliance.”

A force of soldiers protecting a town or fortress.