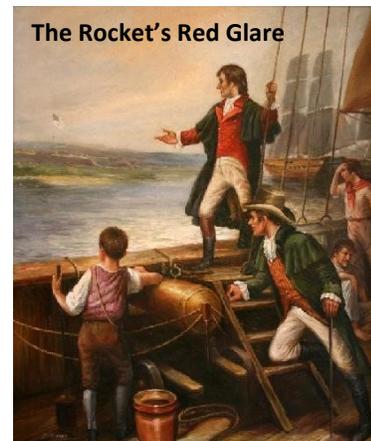
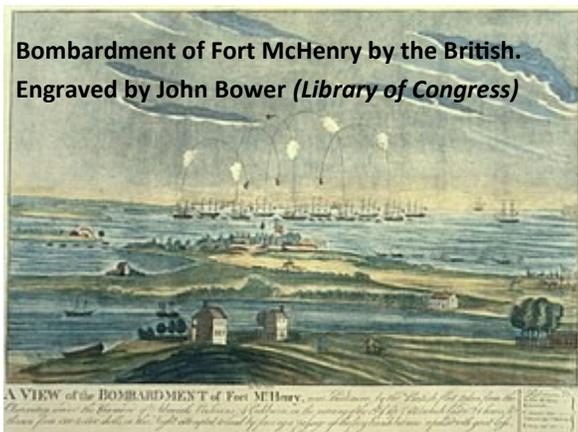




LESSON PLAN #3– April 6 & 7, 1813

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

April 6-7 1813, Lewes, Delaware was under attack by the British Royal Navy during the War of 1812. The British, who had set up a **blockade** with armed British ships of war at the mouth of the Delaware Bay, **restricted** and prevented waterway access to Philadelphia. The presence of the British fleet also prevented American supplies from reaching or leaving the city. When the British sailors aboard their ships were in need of supplies themselves, after many weeks, they demanded that the people of Lewes supply them with fresh water, vegetables, and beef. The Lewestowners refused. An exchange of letters became increasingly tense until British Commodore Beresford threatened to bombard the town of Lewes. People within Lewes expressed their emotions to friends, absent family, and other loved ones. When the bombardment began, cannonballs and Congreve rockets impacted the town. After the bombardment, there were no human casualties within Lewes. The British **ceased** the bombardment after 22 hours and resumed the blockade off of Lewes's coast for many weeks. This engagement was viewed as a major victory for Lewes. A year after the bombardment of Lewes, another bombardment on September 13, 1814 inspired Francis Scott Key to write a poem, "*The Defense of Fort McHenry*," which was later set to music and became "*The Star Spangled Banner*," best known as the present day United States national anthem. The "*rocket's red glare*" from the poem, describing the firing of the Congreve Rockets, is the same red coloration the Lewestowners would have seen during the bombardment of Lewes.



ACTIVITY:

- ◆ **WRITE** your own poem based on the two provided poems on the next three pages. For extra fun, put your poem to a tune. Can you create your own original song, like the people of Lewes and Francis Scott Key?
- ◆ **SHARE**—Please consider sharing your creations with *The Lewes Historical Society*.

**Email- The Director of Education at: marcos@historiclewes.org
with "Lesson Plan" in the subject line.**

VOCABULARY:

- Blockade-** Sealing off a place to prevent goods or people from entering or leaving.
- Restricted-** Placing limitations on someone's activities or movement.
- Ceased-** Stop happening.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES :

To better understand the effects of the War of 1812 blockade on DELMARVA,

PLEASE WATCH this PBS Documentary online video:

<https://www.pbs.org/video/the-war-of-1812-the-war-of-1812-full-program/>

THE BOMBARDMENT OF LEWES:

By: Anonymous (1813)

*Beresford, Beresford, 'tis rough,
You drink not our blood or water;
The bullocks are hardy, not tough,
Nor will they lead to your slaughter.*

*Your wrath like our wells keep boiling;
Your manners grow sensibly worse;
For water your liquor is spoiling;
Hold! Send us your shot, but don't curse.*

*Your flagship might come up nearer,
A little closer in to the town;
Before our guns please to steer her;
Are you afraid of running aground?*

*Go away, Sir Trumpeter, go;
You have become the laugh of us all;
To some other place speed and blow,
But mind ye, a gunpowder squall.*

What is the tone of this poem? (Tone means the general character or attitude of a piece of writing).

Who is the villain of this poem?

In your poem what will your tone be?

Words by Gilbert Byron

Colonel Samuel Davis answered, "No!"
He'd never feed a British mouth,
And trained his little twelve pounders
Toward the big fleet in the south.
With that the British fleet opened up,
Two hundred and forty cannon boomed,
Solid lead screamed overhead,
Fire rockets whistled, shrapnel boomed.

But their aim was so atrocious,
After twenty-two hours of this squeeze,
A hound dog and a setting hen
Were the only casualties.
While the citizens picked solid ball
From the streets like manna bread,
And the little guns of Lewes
Gave the British back their lead.

And when the British marines tried to land,
The citizens turned them back.
Old men paraded with cornstalks,
British eyes were fooled by that.
They raised their sails so silently,
Slipped out of the Delaware Bay,
And they never came back again—
At least not in our day.

And just to add my little iron,
The British commander's name was Byron.

Did you notice?

**The author changes the historic name of the British Commander Beresford to his own name
Byron!**

You can get creative with your poem too.

Try to include your own name in your poem, or that of a relative or a favorite pet.

The Star-Spangled Banner

From the poem, "*The Defense of Ft. McHenry*" By: Francis Scott Key (1814)

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream,
'Tis the star-spangled banner - O long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore,
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a Country should leave us no more?
Their blood has wash'd out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave

Did you know?

There was another part of this song that we do not sing today. Francis Scott Key wrote it to commemorate the bombardment of Fort Mc Henry, but not all of the song was included in the United States National Anthem. Commemorate means to celebrate and remember an event or person, by creating or building something.