

PRESQU'ILE AND THE WAR OF 1812

The United States of America declared war on Canada in 1812. Major battles of the War of 1812 took place in the Niagara and Windsor areas. A small skirmish took place at Presqu'ile and the Americans burned a British boat. Boys as young as ten years of age often fought in these battles.

1813

Ship's Log: 1813

Not all water travel took place on large boats like HMS Speedy. Canoe-like boats with flat bottoms called bateaux were also useful for moving people and supplies.

The sheltered harbour of Presqu'ile Bay was on a well-established trade route. During the War of 1812, British bateaux travelled between Kingston and Niagara. Presqu'ile Bay was an important stop on these long journeys.

The British had a small group of soldiers stationed at Presqu'ile to protect their boats coming out of the Bay of Quinte. Boats went through the Bay of Quinte because it was safer than Lake Ontario. The bateaux would then be moved out of the Bay of Quinte and across the Presqu'ile Peninsula by oxen.

The flat land near the Presqu'ile Park Store is very close to the spot where British soldiers moved their weapons and supplies during the War of 1812.

Did You Know?

An average bateau was ten metres long and two metres wide.

Usually four people were needed to row a bateau.

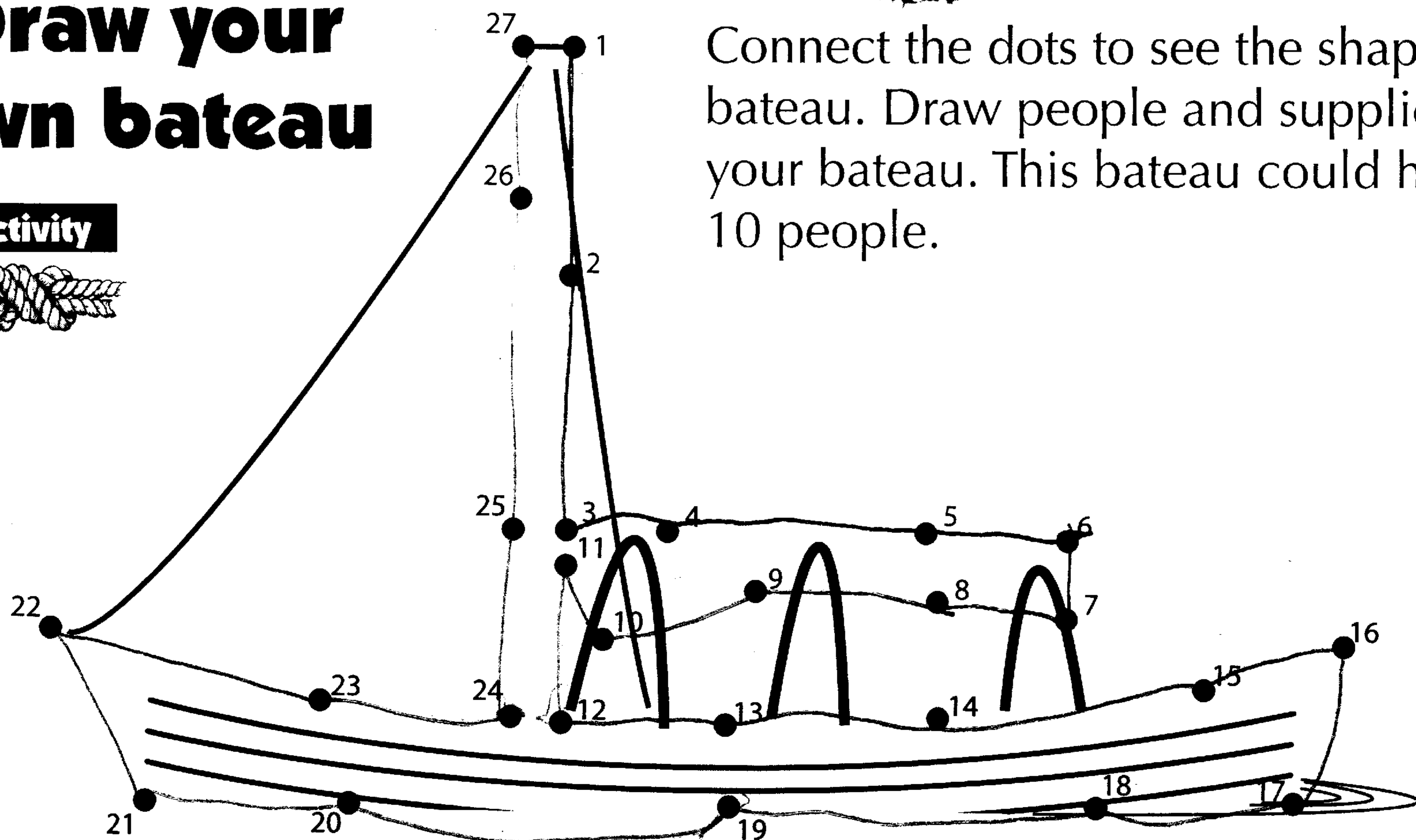
A bateau could carry over 1,300 kilograms of supplies. That is as heavy as 700 bags of firewood.

Draw your own bateau

Activity

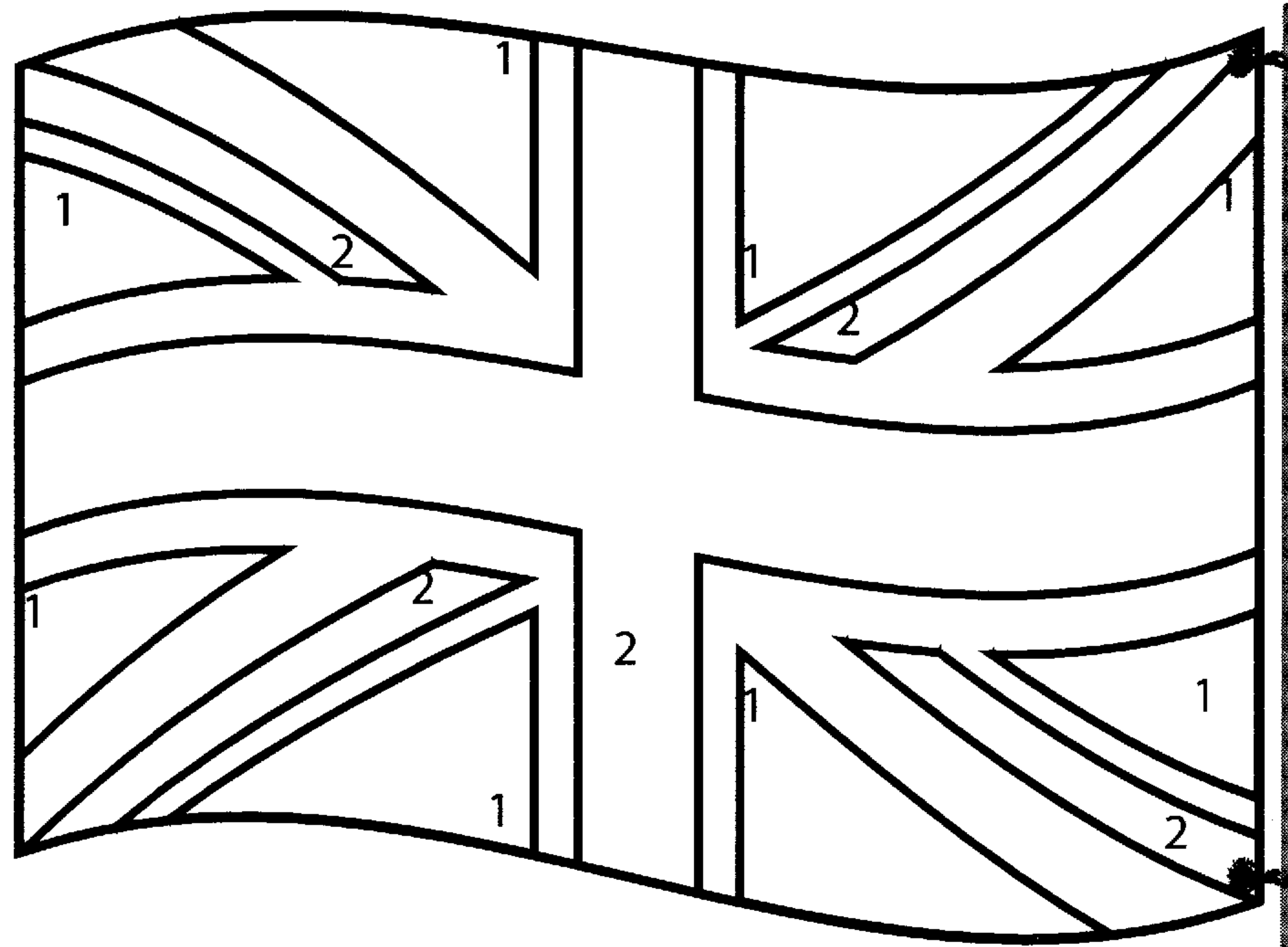
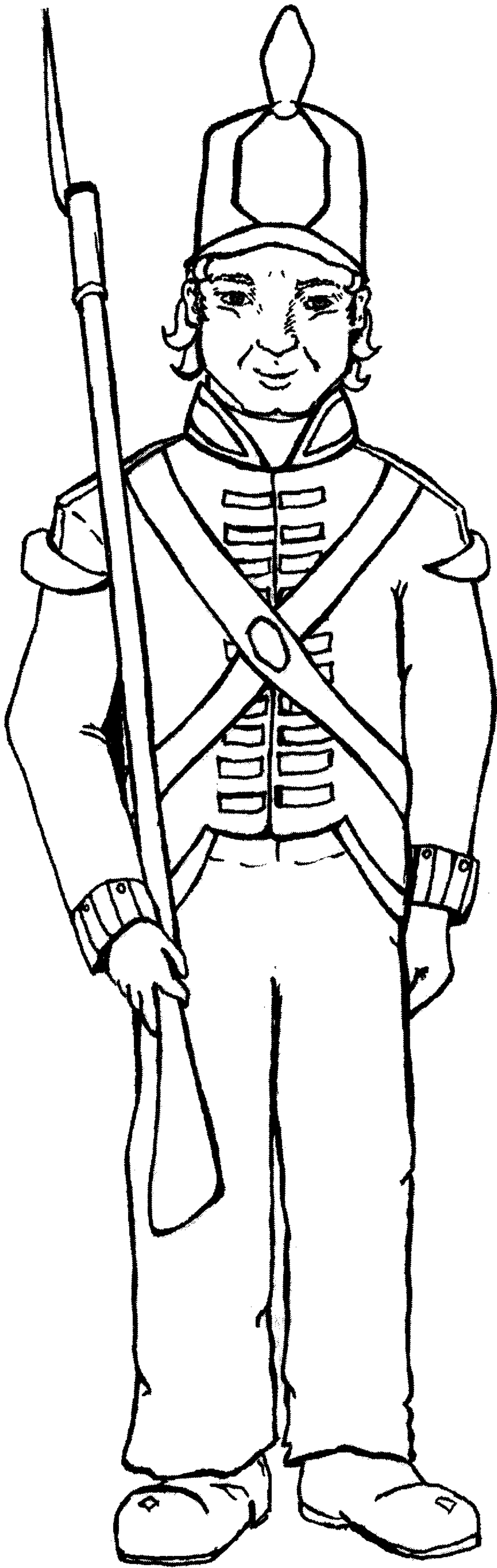


Connect the dots to see the shape of a bateau. Draw people and supplies in your bateau. This bateau could hold over 10 people.



Colour my uniform & flag

Activity



This is the British flag, also known as the Union Jack. Match the numbers to the colours.

1: navy blue 2: red

WAR OF 1812

Canada was not a country in 1812. It was still a British colony. The people of the United States of America were not happy with the way the British were treating them and so they declared war on June 12, 1812. The War of 1812 lasted until December 25, 1814.

Many battles were fought during the war. Over 12,000 people died.

The war ended in a truce. When the war was over, the boundary of Canada had not changed.

Look at me! I am dressed as a British soldier. The British soldiers who were stationed here during the War of 1812 wore bright red coats.

Did you know?

George Gibson, a resident of Presqu'île, was building a schooner in the summer of 1814. This boat would have been large enough to carry 14 cannons and many supplies. As the schooner neared completion, a group of American soldiers came ashore at Presqu'île and burned it. The American soldiers escaped.