

- 7) **Pick one tent to observe.** For one minute, notice what you see, hear and smell. Can you guess who these people you are observing are? What are they doing? Are they fighting for the British side or the American side? Why do you think they are here? Draw a sketch of your scene below:

- 8) **Think about a question to ask one of the soldiers** who is preparing for battle. What do they do to keep warm? Why are they fighting this battle? What kind of clothes are they wearing? What do they do to pass the time? Write your question:

- 9) Find the camp of **Tennessee militia, free people of color,** and **Choctaw.** Think of a question to ask them, and write it below. What do they have to say?

- 10) With this camp of Tennesseans, free people of color and Choctaw, you will find **camp followers.** These women would come to the battlefield during the day to help the soldiers. What kind of things do you see them doing? Why do you think they are here? Don't be afraid to ask them if you're not sure!

# Battle of New Orleans

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park  
and Preserve  
Chalmette Battlefield



*January 15, 1815 • January 11, 2013*

Welcome to the Chalmette Battlefield and the year 1815! It is the day before a great battle is going to take place: the British troops have been given orders to invade the city of New Orleans, and a patchwork army of Americans have come together to defend it. What will happen?

Explore the battlefield with your five senses and read the signs you see as you go. This will help you to answer these questions:

- 1) Find the big **Chalmette Monument.** What year was it built? Who built it? Why do you think they wanted this big monument here?

- 2) Find a **tent where people are cooking.** For one minute, close your eyes and breathe deeply. Can you figure out what's for dinner? What else can you smell? How is the food being prepared and cooked? Draw a picture of what you observe:

3) For one minute, **close your eyes and listen** to the sounds around you. What do you hear? Do you hear any sounds that probably **would** have been heard on this battlefield in 1815? Do you hear any sounds that probably **would not** have been heard in 1815?

4) Find the **Malus-Beauregard House**. Observe the house from the outside and from the inside. Based on what you know about the battle, and what you observe when you look at the house, do you think it was here when the battle was fought? Why or why not?

5) Stop and find a comfortable place to sit where you have a good view of the battlefield. **Observe the battlefield** that you see today. Draw a sketch of what you see:



(Library of Congress)

This image is one of many that were created by people who weren't at the battle. You can find other images on the informative signs scattered along the American line, most of which were created long after the battle was over.

6) How does this image compare to the one that you drew? What do you see that is **similar, or different**? Why do you think that is?