

The French and Indian War

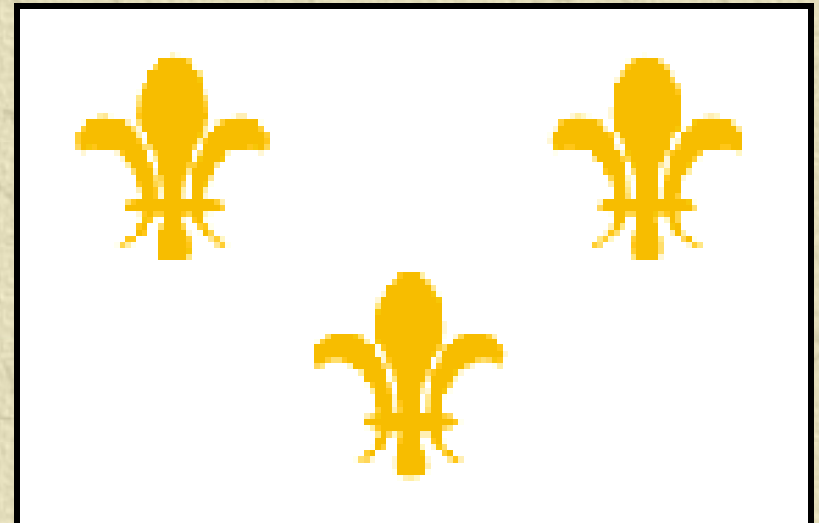
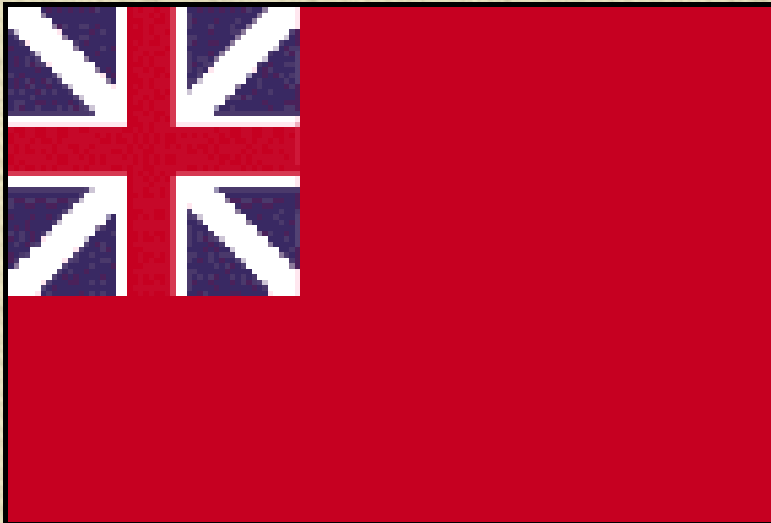
England and France Compete in
North America

French and English Collide



- ✦ The *French and Indian War* was the colonial part of the *Seven Years War* that ravaged Europe from 1756 to 1763.
- ✦ It was the bloodiest American war in the 1700's.
- ✦ It claimed more lives than the American Revolution.

Causes of Conflict



✠ The war was the product of a clash between the French and English over colonial territory and wealth. In North America, the war can also be seen as a product of the local rivalry between British and French colonists.

Causes of Conflict

✠ Tensions between the British and French in America had been getting worse for some time, as each side wanted to gain more land. In the 1740s, both England and France traded for furs with the Native Americans in the Ohio Country.



✠ By the 1750's, English colonists, especially the investors in the Ohio Country hoped to convert the wilderness into good farmland.

Causes of Conflict



Each side tried to keep the other out of the Ohio Country. In the early 1750's, French soldiers captured several English trading posts and built Fort Duquesne (now called Pittsburgh) to defend their territory from English incursions.

In 1753, the governor of Virginia sent the militia to warn the French to stop building forts in the Ohio River valley. They were led by a 21-year-old surveyor—George Washington.

Albany Plan of Union

- ✦ Aware of the hard times that might exist in the colonies during the war, English officials suggested a “union between ye Royal, Proprietary & Charter Governments.”
- ✦ June, 1754~Delegates from 7 colonies, mostly from the north, and representatives from the Iroquois League met in Albany.
- ✦ Benjamin Franklin formally proposed that the colonies band together for defense with a Grand Council that could collect taxes, raise armies, make treaties, and start new settlements.



The plan was defeated by the colonial legislatures because they did not want to give up individual authority.

The King opposed the plan because it could result in a unified government in the colonies that would be harder to control.

George Washington

- ✦ In 1754, a young George Washington and a small force of Virginia militiamen marched to the Ohio Country to take Fort Duquesne and drive the French out.
- ✦ Washington quickly built Fort Necessity south of Fort Duquesne near the Monongahela River.
- ✦ In addition to French removal, he hoped to convince native people that England was the stronger force, so that they would ally with the British rather than the French.



Washington in his Virginia Militia uniform

Battle of Great Meadows (Fort Necessity)

- ✦ **Fort Necessity was built hastily and poorly planned**
 - ◆ In a valley
 - ◆ Too near the surrounding forest
- ✦ **French had allied with the Algonquin and Huron tribes.**
- ✦ **The French permitted Washington and his men to return to Virginia safely, but made them promise they would not build another fort west of the Appalachian Mountains for at least a year.**
- ✦ **This was the first and only surrender of George Washington's military career.**



- ✦ **A combined force of 600 French soldiers and 100 native allies overwhelmed Fort Necessity on July 3, 1754, marking the start of the French and Indian War in North America.**

Battle of the Monongahela

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- ✦ July 1755~ British General Braddock , aided by Washington, and other colonial militia again tried to take Fort Duquesne.
 - ✦ 1500 British troops were ambushed by 900 French and Indian warriors a few miles south of the fort.
 - ✦ Huge defeat for the British, approximately 500 killed compared to 30 French and Indians.
 - ✦ Native Americans hesitate to ally with the British.
 - ✦ George Washington would prove heroic.
 - ◆ Two horses were shot out from under him, and four bullets pierced his coat—yet, he sustained no injuries and showed his cool under fire.
 - ✦ After news of debacle reached London, England formally declared war on France in 1756, after a year and a half of undeclared war in America.

French Dominance

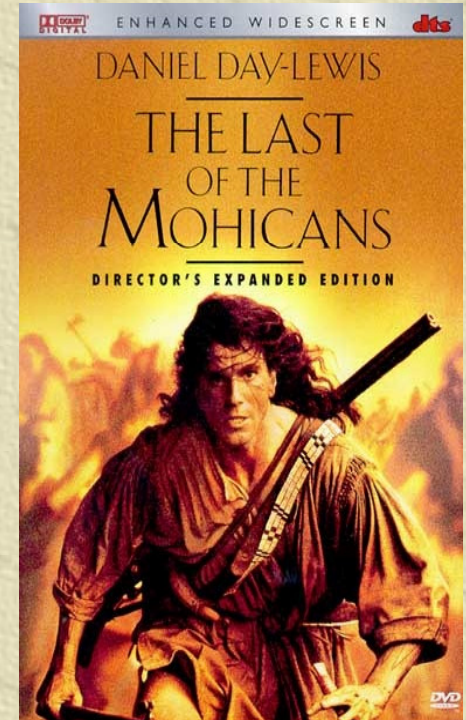
- ✦ For the first three years of the war, the outnumbered French dominated the battlefield, soundly defeating the English in battles at Fort Oswego and Ticonderoga.
- ✦ Fearing that France would overpower them, British governors in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland forced their French residents from their homes.
 - ◆ First modern, forced relocation of an entire people
 - ◆ Made their way to Louisiana



French Dominance

Battle of Fort William Henry

- ✦ Perhaps the most notorious battle of the war was the French victory at Fort William Henry in 1757 (New York).
- ✦ After resisting a long siege by French and Indian forces, British General Webb surrendered under the terms that the 3,000 soldiers and civilians be allowed to leave the fort peacefully.
- ✦ After the British withdrawal, French-aligned Native Americans attacked and killed 300+ British men, women and children.
- ✦ The events of the battle were depicted in the 1826 novel *The Last of the Mohicans* by James Fennimore Cooper.



The Tide Turns...



- ✦ **The tide turned for the British in 1758, as they began to make peace with important Indian allies like the Iroquois.**
- ✦ **Under the direction of a new Prime Minister Lord William Pitt, Britain began working more closely with colonial forces, adapting their war strategies to fit the territory and landscape of the American frontier.**
- ✦ **Their Indian allies began to abandon the French.**

Battle of Quebec



- ✦ July 1758~14,000 British forces surrounded and captured the French fort in Louisbourg in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the mouth of the French supply line.
- ✦ The British, under General Wolfe, moved up the St. Lawrence to Quebec.
- ✦ September 1759~A British scout discovered a hidden path that led up the cliffs to a lightly defended part of the French defense.

General Wolfe and his troops climb up the hill to the Plains of Abraham.

Britain Takes Control

- ✠ During the night, thousands of troops slipped up the path and past the French guards to the Plains of Abraham, a wide, open space outside the city of Quebec. French troops awakened the next morning to find line after line of British troops waiting for them.
- ✠ The battle raged for days and finally ended with the French surrender on September 12, 1759. Both Wolfe and Montcalm died soon after from injuries sustained in the battle.



General James Wolfe is fatally wounded in the Battle of Quebec.

War Ends in America

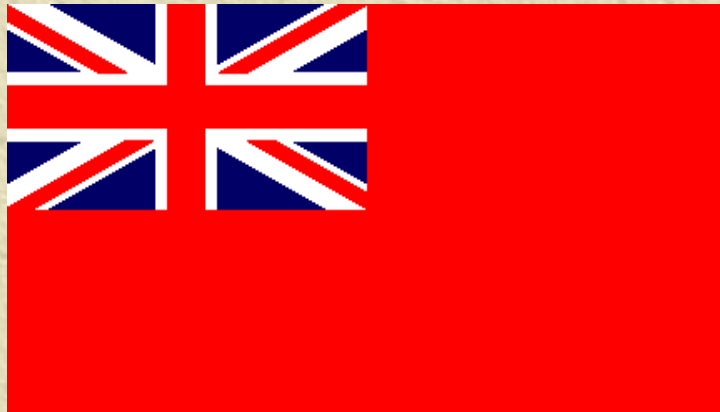
- ✦ **One year later, September 6, 1760, the British descended on Montreal.**
- ✦ **After a three-day siege, more than 2,000 French soldiers surrendered the city to the British forces, composed of 17,000 British and 700 Iroquois.**
- ✦ **Exhausted by years of battle, outnumbered and outgunned by the British, the French collapsed with the defeats of Quebec and Montreal.**
- ✦ **By September 1760, the British controlled all of the North American frontier.**
- ✦ **The war between the two countries was effectively over in America.**

French Surrender at Montreal ~1760



Treaty of Paris 1763

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- ✦ The Treaty of Paris officially ended the French and Indian War.
 - ✦ The British gained control over the area west of the British Colonies to the Mississippi River. The French agreed to give up any colonies in North America, including all of Canada. Because Spain had helped the French (1762), the Spanish were also forced to give up Florida. The Spanish still held their territory west of the Mississippi River and in Central and South America.





✠ Treaty of Paris 1763

✠ Britain and France redraw the political map of North America



1754~Before



1763~After

Lasting Effects

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- ✦ **The results of the war effectively ended French influence in North America.**
 - ✦ **England had claim to almost all land east of the Mississippi River and vastly strengthened its hold on the continent.**
 - ✦ **The war damaged relationships between the English and Native Americans.**
 - ✦ **The effects of the French and Indian War played a major role in the worsening relationship between England and her colonies that led to the Revolutionary War.**

