

## The French and Indian War

Being a part of the British Empire gave the early American colonists many benefits. The mother country provided the colonies with military protection and opportunities for trade and commerce. England attempted to regulate trade in the colonies (they could only trade with England). In the beginning, England turned a blind eye to illegal trading or smuggling. However, as the British government gained dominance in world power, its policies toward the 13 colonies changed. After the French and Indian War, Great Britain clamped down on the colonies.

By 1750 the English and French settlements in North America had expanded, creating conflicts and tensions between them. (Look at the 13 Colonies Map in your notebook. Can you see how the French territory is right up against the English territory?)

There were probably about 1,500,000 English settlers in the thirteen colonies, but only about 100,000 French settlers scattered in forts and remote areas claimed by France in Canada and along the Ohio River. (Look at your map to see where the Ohio River is located.) The French forts prevented the English settlers from moving westward.

As you've studied, the English and the Native Americans did not get along very well. (Remember King Philip's War?) The French, however, developed good relationships with the native populations because the French didn't create towns or settlements that pushed Indians off their land. Instead, the French worked with the Native Americans, trapping and hunting, and making profit by selling valuable furs to the European markets. The Ohio River Valley was rich with the furs of otters, fox, beaver, and mink. There was a craze in Europe for animal pelts, so the French traded guns, metal objects, cloth and other commodities with the Indians of the region. Both the French and the Indians benefited from their alliance.

The British colonists were interested in moving west, but ran into hostilities from the French and Indians who hunted in the Ohio River Valley. Neither side wanted the other to be in their territory, so it's not a surprise that fighting broke out in 1754 when George Washington and British General Braddock

1. What was the relationship between the colonies and the mother country, England? Was it equal?

2. What mountain range separated the French and English claims?

3. The Ohio River feeds into what major river? What was the ratio of French settlers to the American colonists?

4. What resources did the Ohio River Valley provide the French? What did the Indians gain from their alliance with the French?

took some troops to stop the French from building another fort (Fort Duquesne) near modern day Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. The colonial militia led by General Braddock failed miserably. The Indians and French fought guerilla style which worked well in the forests. The British wore their bright red uniforms and insisted on lining up in formation. Though Washington warned Braddock about the fighting style of the French and Indians, (using ambushes, being as quiet as possible, using small bands of fighters, implementing the element of surprise) the British general ignored his advice to fight the same way. As a consequence, Braddock lost his life at Fort Duquesne.

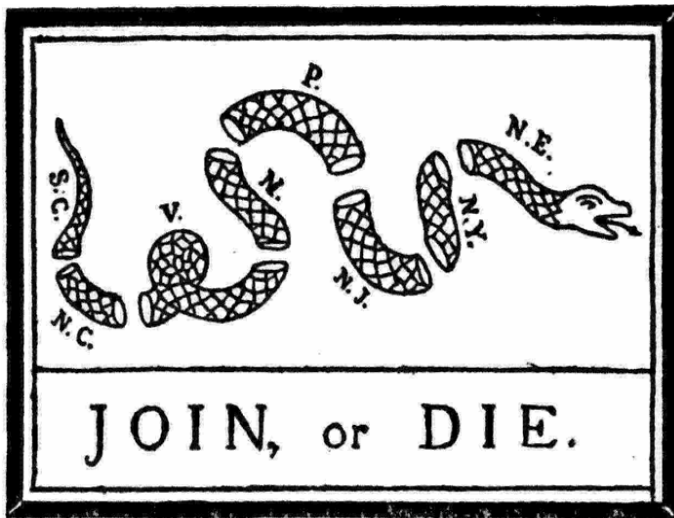
Washington returned with his troops to Virginia where he was treated as a hero. His men told the public that after Braddock was killed, the young Washington regrouped his troops and again attacked the French. Washington had three horses shot out from under him. Each time this happened, he found another horse to mount to lead his troops. Still they were defeated, but Washington's reputation as a fearless leader was established.

The French and Indian War (a war between the French and Indians on one side and the British and the British colonists on the other side) lasted from 1754 to 1763. It continued a long-standing rivalry between France and England. The two countries didn't limit their fighting to just North America; they fought in the West Indies, the Philippines, Africa, Europe, and India. The fighting all over the world was called the Seven Years War by the Europeans, but in North America, the war was called the French and Indian War.

During the years leading up to the actual war, Benjamin Franklin, publisher of the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, tried to get the colonies together to unite against the French. But each colony acted as its own little kingdom, and none wanted to join a group because each colony thought it would lead to being bossed around by other colonies. Franklin tried to persuade the colonists to unite by publishing a drawing that is considered the first American political cartoon. The inspiration for his cartoon came from a superstition that a severed snake could come back to life if put together before sunset.

5. Contrast the fighting styles of the French and Indians versus the British. Why did Washington's reputation grow after the battle at Fort Duquesne?

6. How many years did the French and Indian War last? Besides North America, where did France and England fight?



7. Neatly draw Franklin's cartoon. (It is often called Unite or Die instead of Join or Die.) What does the snake represent? What do the initials stand for? Why are they in a particular order?

During the first few years of the war, the French and Indians dominated the fighting. But in 1757, William Pitt became the new Prime Minister of England. The resources of the Ohio River Valley were too valuable to lose to the French, so he changed the course of the war by sending more troops and younger, more efficient and effective military leaders, as well as more supplies and weapons. Another boost in favor of the British was that an Indian tribe, the Iroquois, joined the British during the last years of the war because they wanted an ally against the tribes fighting on the side of the French. The British promised the Native Americans their own land if they helped the British win. With new generals, troops, supplies, and Indian allies, the fighting shifted more into Canada where General Wolfe won a spectacular victory in Quebec. This victory led to the surrender of the French to the British, ending the war.

8. Explain when and why the British started winning the war.

The famous "The Death of General Wolfe" was painted in 1770 by Benjamin West. Wolfe was killed, but the British took Quebec.



9. List the title and artist's name. Describe the painting. Is it a primary source document concerning the French and Indian War? Why or why not?

At the peace conference in 1763, the English received Canada and all other French lands east of the Mississippi River from France, the loser. Because Spain had allied itself with France in the fighting taking place in other parts of the world, Spain was punished and had to give England its Florida territory. As a thank you to Spain for helping the French effort, France gave Spain the important city of New Orleans. The Treaty of Paris strengthened the American colonies significantly by removing their European rivals and opening the Mississippi Valley to westward expansion.

10. What lands did England gain from the treaty in 1763?

The colonists were thrilled that the French had been kicked out of the Ohio River Valley. Now they could migrate westward and claim rich lands for themselves. Unfortunately for the colonists, the British government put a halt to their ideas about moving west. Why? Because the war had been so expensive, that the British treasury didn't have much money. The people living in England had paid for the war more than the colonists in North America. They were outraged that the colonists, (whom they were starting to call Americans) were not being taxed as much as they in England were being taxed. Wasn't it the colonists' responsibility to pay for the costly war?

11. Why were the citizens living in England unhappy with the colonists?

The colonists opposed any taxes the British wanted them to pay. The British felt they should exercise more control and authority over the colonists because they weren't obeying all the British rules. The colonists didn't like the new taxes, but more importantly they hated what was known as the Proclamation of 1763, a law that forbid the colonists from moving across the Appalachian Mountains into the newly won territory. King George III declared that it would be too expensive to protect the colonists from the Indian presence in the western lands. King George III also promised the land to the Indians. The Proclamation of 1763 led directly to the colonists wanting their independence from Great Britain.

12. Explain the Proclamation of 1763. Were the colonists happy with it?