



# The French and Indian War

**TERMS & NAMES**  
French and Indian War  
Albany Plan of Union  
Battle of Quebec  
Treaty of Paris  
Pontiac's Rebellion  
Proclamation of 1763

## MAIN IDEA

Britain's victory in the French and Indian War forced France to give up its North American colonies.

## WHY IT MATTERS NOW

British influence spread over North America, though French populations and place names still exist here.

## ONE AMERICAN'S STORY

Charles de Langlade, born in 1729, was the son of a French fur trader and his Ottawa wife. His family controlled the fur trade around what is now Green Bay, Wisconsin.

In 1752, Charles commanded 250 Ottawa and Chippewa warriors in an attack on the village of Pickawillany, in present-day Ohio. His reason: the Miami people who lived there had stopped trading with the French and were now trading with the British. Charles and his men destroyed the village's British trading post and killed the Miami chief. This attack helped lead to the French and Indian War.

This section describes the war, in which French forces fought British forces in North America. Each side had Native American allies. Charles de Langlade led several successful attacks against the British. But in the end, he saw the British drive French armies from the continent.



This 1903 painting by Edward Deming shows Charles de Langlade attacking British forces in 1755.

## France Claims Western Lands

As you learned in Chapters 2 and 4, the French were exploring the North American interior while English colonists were settling the eastern coast. By the late 1600s, French explorers had claimed the Ohio River valley, the Mississippi River valley, and the entire Great Lakes region. The French territory of Louisiana, claimed by the explorer La Salle in 1682, stretched from the Appalachian Mountains to the Rocky Mountains.

The French built their main settlements, Quebec and Montreal, along the St. Lawrence River in Canada. (See the map on page 148.) They also built forts along the Great Lakes and along rivers draining into the Mississippi. By 1760, the French colony, New France, had a European population of about 80,000. By contrast, the British colonies had more than a million settlers.

Some Europeans in New France were Jesuit priests. They wanted to convert Native Americans to Christianity. Other Europeans in New France worked as fur traders. Native Americans brought furs to French forts and

**Background**  
Often French traders lived among and married Native Americans.

**Background**  
The Iroquois were a union of six nations.

**Reading History**  
**A. Recognizing Effects** How did the fur trade lead to wars?

**Reading History**  
**B. Making Inferences** Why was the Ohio River Valley important to the French and British governments?

exchanged them for goods such as iron pots and steel knives. Many French traders carried goods by canoe into remote parts of New France.

## Native American Alliances

The English competed with the French for furs. Also, different Native American groups competed to supply furs to the Europeans. The fur trade created economic and military alliances between the Europeans and their Native American trading partners. The Huron and Algonquin peoples of the Great Lakes region were allied with the French. The Iroquois of upper New York often were allied with the Dutch and, later, the English.

Alliances between Europeans and Native Americans led to their involvement in each other's wars. For example, by the mid-1600s, the Iroquois had trapped all the beavers in their own lands. To get more furs, they made war on their Huron and Algonquin neighbors, driving them west. Eventually the Iroquois controlled an area ranging from Maine west to the Ohio Valley and north to Lake Michigan. Iroquois expansion threatened the French fur trade. In response, the French armed the Huron and Algonquin peoples to fight the Iroquois. The Iroquois were armed by the English.

When France and England declared war on each other in Europe in 1689, French and English colonists in America also began to fight. With their Native American allies, they attacked each other's settlements and forts. During the 1700s, two more wars between France and England fueled wars in their colonies. Neither side won a clear victory in these wars. A final war, the **French and Indian War** (1754–1763), decided which nation would control the northern and eastern parts of North America.

## Conflict in the Ohio River Valley

The seeds for the French and Indian War were planted when British fur traders began moving into the Ohio River valley in the 1750s. British land companies were also planning to settle colonists there. The French and their Native American allies became alarmed. To keep the British out of the valley, Charles de Laclède destroyed the village of Pickawillany and its British trading post (see *One American's Story* on page 146).

The British traders left, and the French built forts to protect the region linking their Canadian and Louisiana settlements. This upset the Virginia colony, which claimed title to the land. In 1753, the lieutenant governor of Virginia sent a small group of soldiers to tell the French to



A French trader visits a Native American family.

leave. Their leader was a 21-year-old major named George Washington. Washington reported the French commander's reply.

### A VOICE FROM THE PAST

He told me the Country belong'd to them, that no English Man had a right to trade upon them Waters; & that he had Orders to make every Person Prisoner that attempted it on the Ohio or the Waters of it.

George Washington, "Journey to the French Commandant"

Virginia's lieutenant governor sent about 40 men to build a fort at the head of the Ohio River, where Pittsburgh stands today. French and Native American troops seized the partially built fort in April 1754 and completed it themselves. The French named it Fort Duquesne (du•KAYN).

## War Begins and Spreads

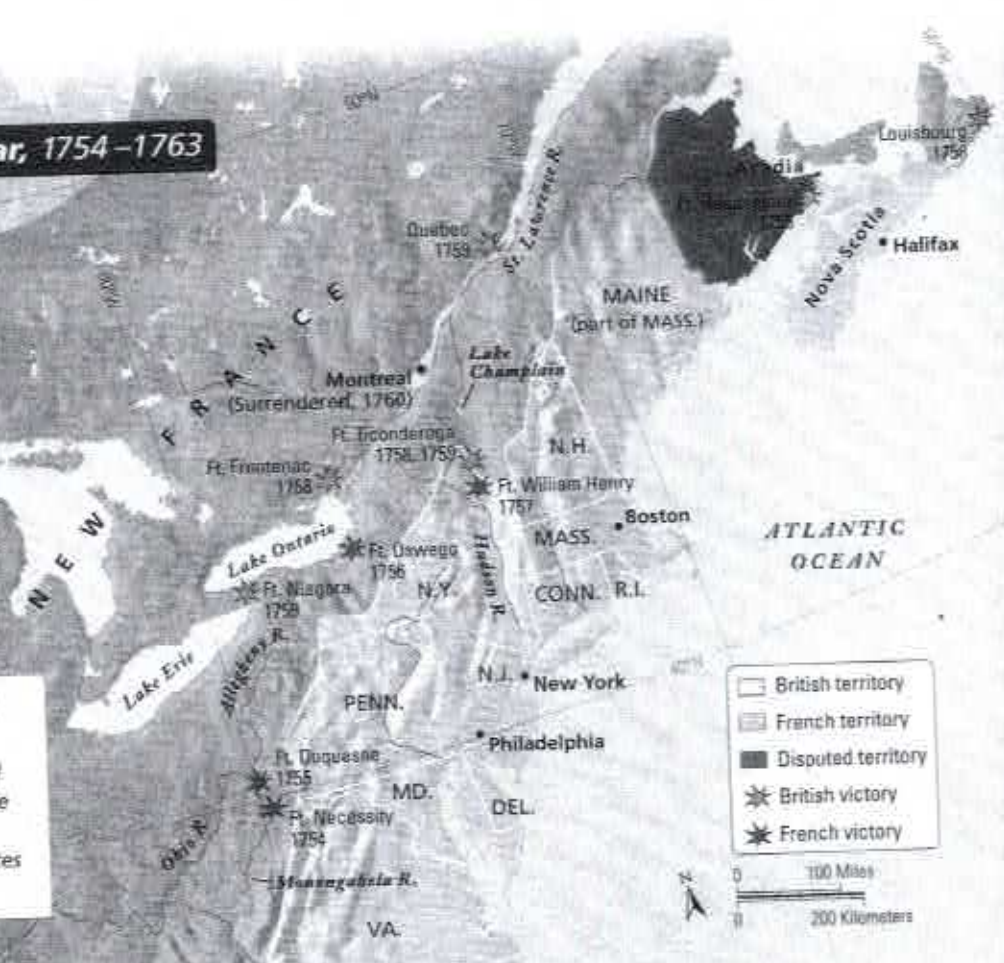
George Washington was on his way to defend Fort Duquesne when he learned of its surrender. He and his men pushed on and built another small fort, Fort Necessity. Following Washington's surprise attack on a French force, the French and their allies attacked Fort Necessity on July 3, 1754. After Washington surrendered, the French let him march back to Virginia. The French and Indian War had begun. This war became part of the Seven Years' War (1756–1763), a worldwide struggle for empire between France and Great Britain.

**Background**  
The Seven Years' War was fought not only in North America but also in the Caribbean, throughout Europe, and in India and Africa.

### French and Indian War, 1754–1763

#### GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER Interpreting Maps

1. Place Which nation controlled territory along the St. Lawrence and Ohio rivers?
2. Place Which forts were the sites of British victories?



While Washington was surrendering Fort Necessity, representatives from the British colonies and the Iroquois nations were meeting at Albany, New York. The colonists wanted the Iroquois to fight with them against the French. The Iroquois would not commit to this alliance.

Benjamin Franklin, who admired the union of the six Iroquois nations, suggested that the colonies band together for defense. His **Albany Plan of Union** was the first formal proposal to unite the colonies. The plan called for each colony to send representatives to a Grand Council. This council would be able to collect taxes, raise armies, make treaties, and start new settlements. The leaders in Albany supported Franklin's plan, but the colonial legislatures later defeated it because they did not want to give up control of their own affairs.

## Braddock's Defeat

Britain realized that to win the war, it could not rely solely on the colonists for funding or for troops. Therefore, the British sent General Edward Braddock and two regiments to Virginia. In 1755, Braddock marched toward the French at Fort Duquesne. George Washington was at his side. Their red-coated army of 2,100 moved slowly over the mountains, weighed down by a huge cannon.

On July 9, on a narrow trail eight miles from Fort Duquesne, fewer than 900 French and Indian troops surprised Braddock's forces. Washington suggested that his men break formation and fight from behind the trees, but Braddock would not listen. The general held his position and had four horses shot out from under him. Washington lost two horses. Four bullets went through Washington's coat, but, miraculously, none hit him. In the end, nearly 1,000 men were killed or wounded. General Braddock died from his wounds. American colonists were stunned by Braddock's defeat and by many other British losses over the next two years.

### Reading History

**C. Drawing**  
Conclusions Why was Braddock defeated by a smaller enemy force?

**Background**  
Because the British seemed likely to win the war, some Iroquois had joined them as allies.

## The British Take Quebec

In 1757, Britain had a new secretary of state, William Pitt, who was determined to win the war in the colonies. He sent the nation's best generals to America and borrowed money to pay colonial troops for fighting. The British controlled six French forts by August 1759, including Fort Duquesne (rebuilt as Fort Pitt). In late summer, the British began to attack New France at its capital, Quebec.

## America's HERITAGE

### ACADIANS TO CAJUNS

Braddock's defeat and other early losses in the war increased British concern about the loyalty of the French people in Acadia (now Nova Scotia). The British had won Acadia from France in 1713.

In 1755, British officers forced out 6,000 Acadians who would not take a loyalty oath. The British burned Acadian villages and spread the people to various British colonies, as shown. Eventually, some Acadians made their way to the French territory of Louisiana. There they became known as Cajuns.



Quebec sat on cliffs 300 feet above the St. Lawrence River. Cannon and thousands of soldiers guarded its thick walls. British general James Wolfe sailed around the fort for two months, unable to capture it. Then, in September, a scout found a steep, unguarded path up the cliffs to the plains just west of Quebec. At night, Wolfe and 4,000 of his men floated to the path and secretly climbed the cliffs.

When the French awoke, the British were lined up on the plains, ready to attack. In the short, fierce battle that followed, Wolfe was killed. The French commander, Montcalm, died of his wounds the next day. Quebec surrendered to the British. The **Battle of Quebec** was the turning point of the war. When Montreal fell the next year, all of Canada was in British hands.

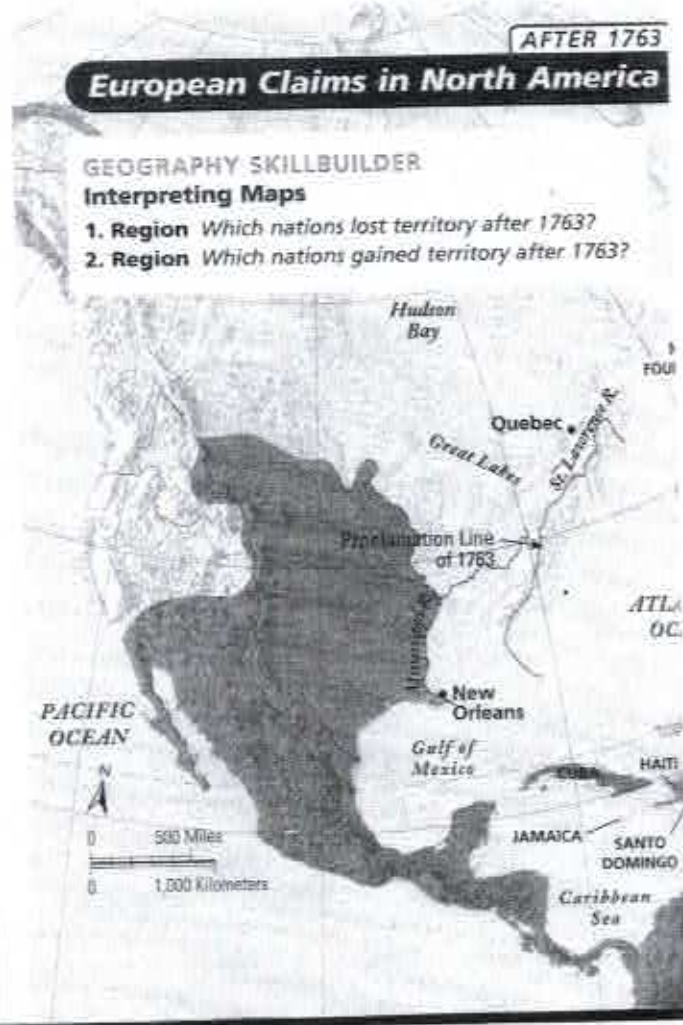
**ReadingHistory**  
**D. Finding Main Ideas** How were the British able to capture Quebec?

## The Treaty of Paris

Britain and France battled in other parts of the world for almost three more years. Spain made a pact in 1761 to aid France, but its help came too late. When the Seven Years' War ended in 1763, Britain had won.

By the **Treaty of Paris**, Britain claimed all of North America east of the Mississippi River. To reward Spain for its help, France gave it New Orleans and Louisiana, the French territory west of the Mississippi. Britain, which had seized Cuba and the Philippines from Spain, gave them back in exchange for Florida. The treaty ended French power in North America.

**Background**  
 France kept only a few islands near Newfoundland and in the West Indies.



## Pontiac's Rebellion

After French forces withdrew, the British took over their forts. They refused to give supplies to the Native Americans, as the French had. British settlers also moved across the mountains onto Native American land. In the spring and summer of 1763, Native American groups responded by attacking settlers and destroying almost every British fort west of the Appalachians. They surrounded the three remaining forts. This revolt was called **Pontiac's Rebellion**, although the Ottawa war leader Pontiac was only one of many organizers.

British settlers reacted with equal viciousness, killing even Indians who had not attacked them. British officers came up with a brutal plan to end the Delaware siege at Fort Pitt.



Pontiac

### Reading History

#### E. Analyzing

#### Points of View

Why did the Native Americans attack the British?

### A VOICE FROM THE PAST

Could it not be contrived to send the Small Pox among those disaffected [angry] tribes of Indians? We must on this occasion use every stratagem in our power to reduce them.

Major General Jeffrey Amherst, quoted in *The Conspiracy of Pontiac*

The officers invited Delaware war leaders in to talk and then gave them smallpox-infected blankets as gifts. This started a deadly outbreak.

By the fall, the Native Americans had retreated. Even so, the uprising made the British government see that defending Western lands would be costly. Therefore, the British issued the **Proclamation of 1763**, which forbade colonists to settle west of the Appalachians.

The colonists were angry. They thought they had won the right to settle the Ohio River Valley. The British government was angry at the colonists, who did not want to pay for their own defense. This hostility helped cause the war for American independence, as you will read.

### Reading History

#### F. Reading a Map

Find the Proclamation Line of 1763 on the map on page 150.

## Section Assessment

### 1. Terms & Names

Explain the significance of

- French and Indian War
- Albany Plan of Union
- Battle of Quebec
- Treaty of Paris
- Pontiac's Rebellion
- Proclamation of 1763

### 2. Taking Notes

Write the month and year each battle occurred. Classify each as a French or British victory.

Date	Incident	Victor
	Seizure of Fort Duquesne	
	Surrender of Fort Mifflin	
	Braddock's defeat	
	Battle of Quebec	

Which was most important?

### 3. Main Ideas

- How did the fur trade contribute to the French and Indian War?
- Why did the British begin to win the war after 1758?
- What were some causes and effects of Pontiac's Rebellion?

### 4. Critical Thinking

Analyzing Points of View  
Why did the French, British, and Native Americans fight over the Ohio River Valley?

#### THINK ABOUT

- how the British viewed the valley
- how the French viewed it
- how the Native Americans viewed it

### French and Indian War (ages 146–151)

What was George Washington's role in the French and Indian War?

What did England gain as a result of the French and Indian War?

What was one reason for Pontiac's Rebellion?

### 5. ANALYZING CAUSES

What do you think was the most important cause of the French and Indian War?

### 6. ANALYZING LEADERSHIP

Give an example of bad military or political leadership from the chapter. What mistake was made?

## Interact with History

Now that you have read the chapter, what would you say British colonists in America had in common?