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- ✓ **BIOGRAPHY**
George Washington
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Native American Relations
With the Europeans
- ✓ **MAP** The French and Indian War
- ✓ **PRIMARY SOURCE**
Political Cartoons



Lesson 4

Rivalry in North America

ESSENTIAL QUESTION Why does conflict develop?

IT MATTERS BECAUSE

Rivalry between Great Britain and France led to a war for control of North America and set the stage for a dispute between the colonists and Great Britain.

Rivalry Between the French and the British

GUIDING QUESTION How did competition for land in North America lead to the French and Indian War?

In the 1700s, Britain and France were leading European powers. They competed for wealth and empire in different parts of the world. In North America, their rivalry was very strong.

This rivalry turned especially bitter in the mid-1700s. The British began to show interest in the Ohio River valley. This vast land beyond the Appalachian Mountains was rich in resources. The British believed they had a right to this land. The French also viewed the valley as theirs. The French enjoyed a thriving fur trade with the Native Americans of the region. They did not want to share this business with British settlers.

To protect their claims in the valley, the French built a chain of forts from Lake Ontario south to the Ohio River. The British responded by starting to build a fort in what is now western Pennsylvania. Before they could finish, the French seized the site. On it, they built their own fort, calling it Fort Duquesne (doo-KAYN).



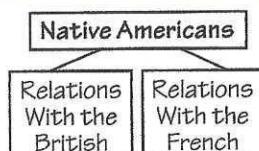
New York Academic Standards
7.2b, 7.3a, 7.3b

Reading **HELP**DESK



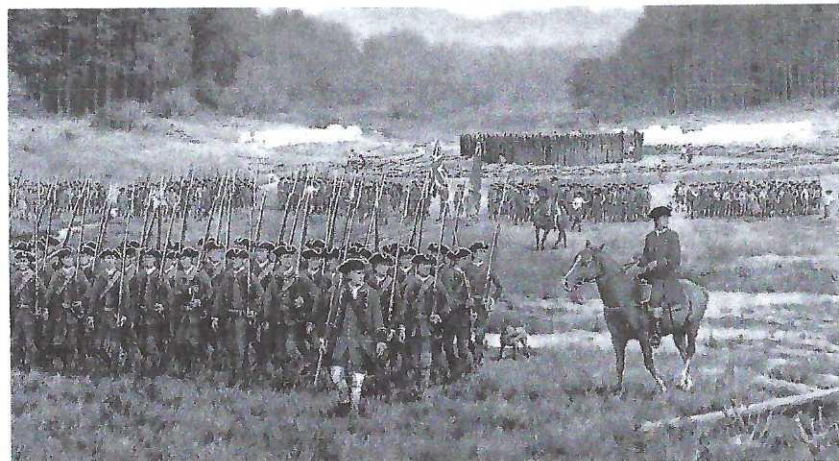
Taking Notes: Summarizing

As you read, use a diagram like this one to summarize why Native Americans had better relations with the French than with the British.



Content Vocabulary

- **militia**
- **Iroquois Confederacy**
- **alliance**



Although Washington suffered defeat at Fort Necessity, the colonists viewed him as the hero who had struck the first blow against the French.

In spring 1754, the governor of Virginia sent a **militia** (muh•LIH•shuh)—a military force made up of ordinary citizens—to drive out the French. Leading this force was a young Virginian. His name was George Washington.

After marching to Fort Duquesne, Washington set up a small fort of his own nearby. He called it Fort Necessity.

Washington's outpost soon came under attack by the French and their Native American allies. This combined army won the battle and forced Washington's soldiers to surrender. The French later released the soldiers, who returned to Virginia.

Native American Alliances

As the conflict got underway, the French and the British both sought Native American help. The French had a big advantage. They already had many Native American allies. Native Americans generally distrusted the British and their hunger for land. In contrast, the French were more interested in fur trading than in land. French trappers and fur traders often married Native American women. French missionaries **converted** many Native Americans to Catholicism. For these reasons, Native Americans helped the French and raided British settlements.

To counter the threat of the French and their Native American friends, the British colonists tried to make a treaty with the Iroquois. The **Iroquois Confederacy** (EER•uh•kwoy kuhn•FEH•duh•ruh•see) was the most powerful group of Native Americans in eastern North America. At that time, the confederacy included six nations—the Mohawk, Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, and Tuscarora. Delegates—representatives—from seven colonies met with Iroquois leaders at Albany, New York, in June 1754. The Iroquois refused an **alliance** (uh•LY•uhns), or partnership, with the British. They did, however, promise to remain **neutral**—that is, to take no side.

The Albany delegates also talked about how the colonies might work together more closely against the French. They decided to adopt Benjamin Franklin's Albany Plan of Union for a united colonial government. To form a colonial government, each colony would have to give up some of its powers. Not one

Reading HELPDESK

CCSS

militia a military force made up of ordinary citizens
Iroquois Confederacy a group of Native American nations in eastern North America joined together under one general government

alliance partnership

Academic Vocabulary

convert to change the religious beliefs of someone

neutral taking no side

colonial assembly was willing to do so. Disappointed, Franklin wrote, “Everybody cries, a Union is absolutely necessary; but when they come to the manner and form of the union, [they] are perfectly distracted.”

The Albany meeting failed to unify the colonists. Meanwhile, the conflict between the British and the French expanded into full-scale war—the French and Indian War.

✓ PROGRESS CHECK

Determining Cause and Effect Why did hostilities between the French and British increase during the mid-1700s?

The French and Indian War

GUIDING QUESTION *What was the turning point in the French and Indian War?*

The French enjoyed early success in the war. They captured several British forts. Meanwhile, their Native American allies carried out raids on the frontier, or edges, of the colonies. They killed colonists, burned farmhouses and crops, and drove many families back toward the coast.

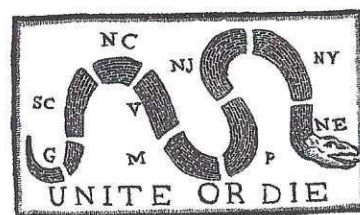
The turning point came in 1757, when William Pitt became prime minister, the head of the British government. Pitt was a great military planner. He sent more trained British troops to fight in North America. To stop colonial complaints about the cost of the war, Pitt decided that Britain would pay for it. He knew that, after the war, the British would raise colonists’ taxes to help pay the large bill. Pitt had only delayed the time when the colonists would have to pay their share of the military costs.

Pitt’s goal was not just to open the Ohio River valley. He also wanted to conquer French Canada. In 1758 British forces won a key victory at Fort Louisbourg, in present-day Nova Scotia.

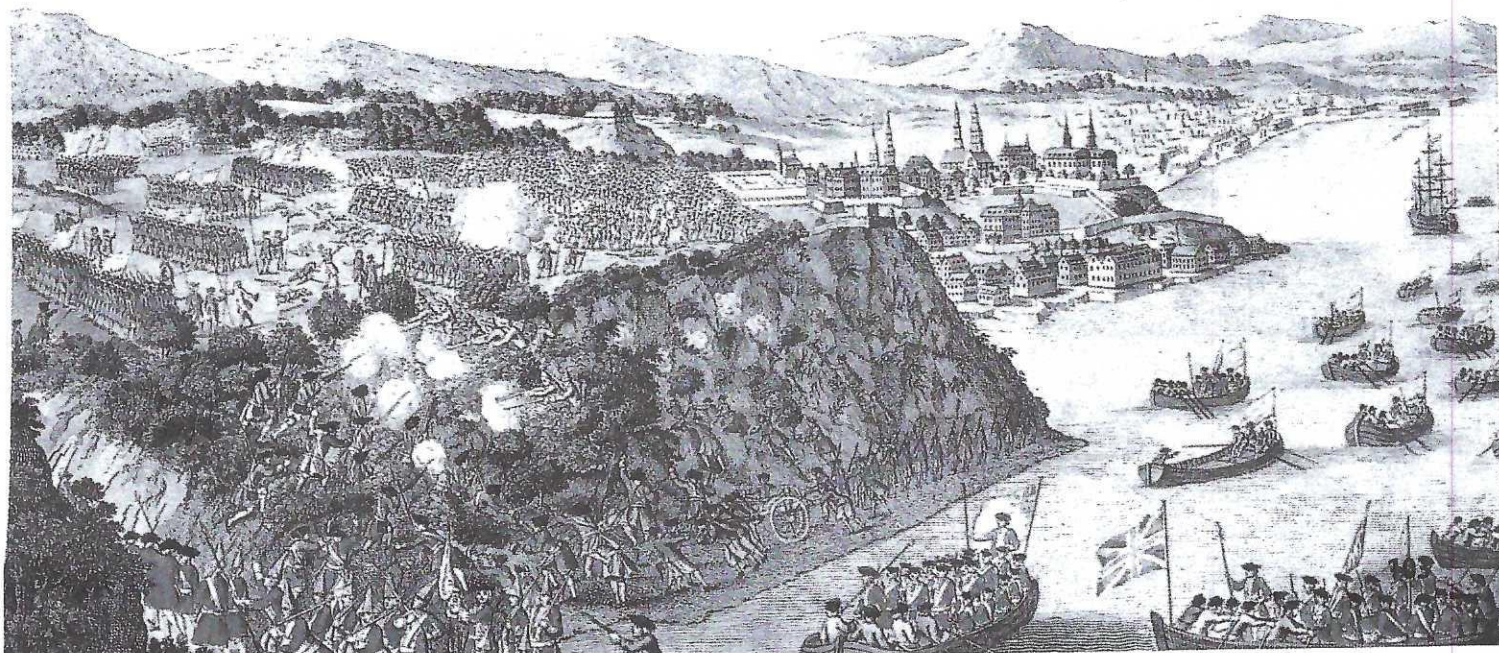
Thinking Like a HISTORIAN

Analyzing Primary Sources

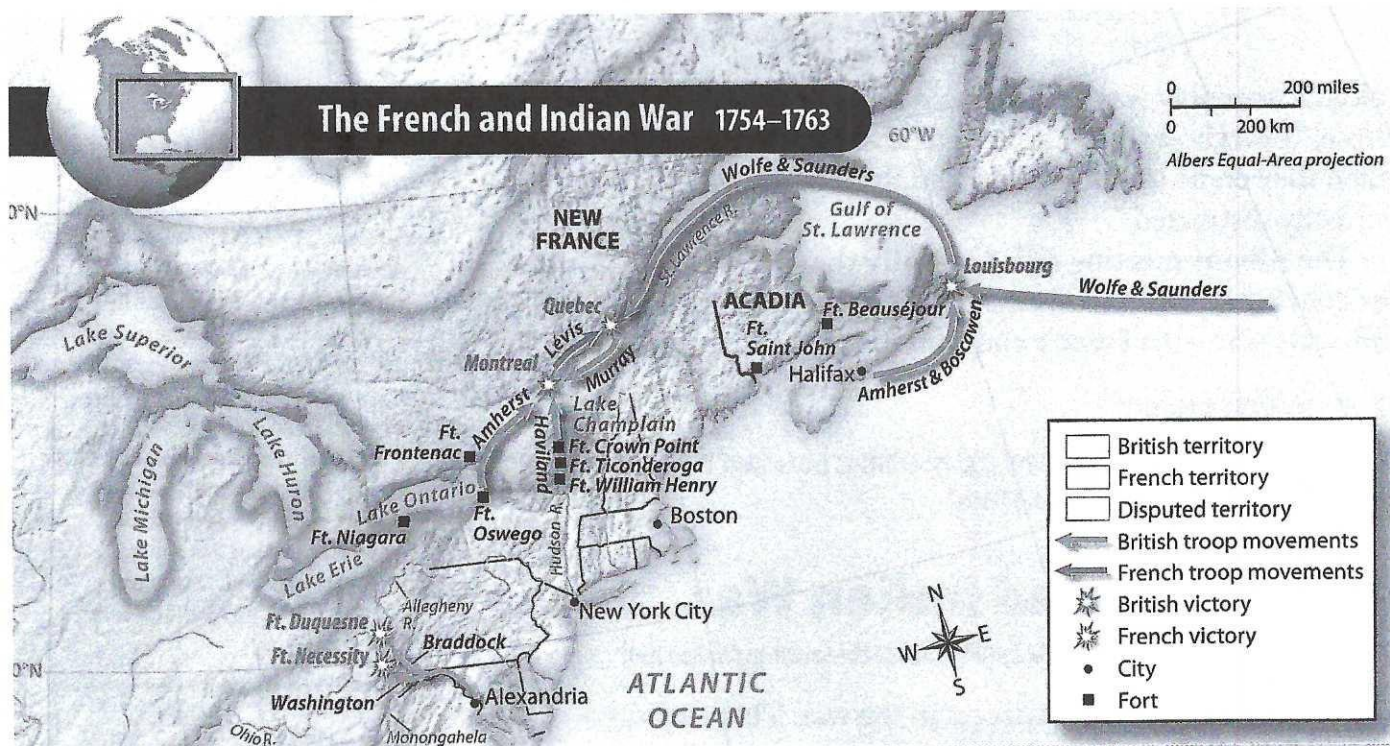
America’s first political cartoon, drawn by Benjamin Franklin in 1754, promoted his Albany Plan of Union. Each section represents a colony. The New England Colonies are combined as one section. What warning does the cartoon convey about the approaching war with France? For more information about analyzing primary sources, read *Thinking Like a Historian*.



After a month-long siege, Major General James Wolfe ordered British forces to cross the St. Lawrence River and climb the cliffs near the city of Quebec. In less than an hour, French troops fled, and the city fell.



The French and Indian War 1754–1763



GEOGRAPHY CONNECTION

During the French and Indian War, the British and the French fought for control of the lands between their North American territories.

1 LOCATION Where are the cities of Quebec and Montreal located?

2 CRITICAL THINKING

Analyzing Why do you think Quebec and Montreal were related to French dominance in the Ohio River valley?

The same year a British force, made up mostly of New York and New England militia, captured Fort Frontenac at Lake Ontario. Another British force finally took Fort Duquesne. The British renamed it Fort Pitt.

Quebec, the capital of New France, sat on a cliff above the St. Lawrence River. Because of its position, Quebec was thought to be impossible to attack. In September 1759, British scouts spotted a poorly guarded path along the back of the cliff. At night, Wolfe's soldiers overwhelmed the French guards and scrambled up the path. The British troops then surprised and defeated the French army on a field called the Plains of Abraham. The fall of Quebec and of Montreal the next year marked the defeat of France in North America.

The war in Europe finally ended with the Treaty of Paris of 1763. This treaty forced France to give Canada and most of its lands east of the Mississippi River to Great Britain. Great Britain also received Florida from France's ally, Spain. Spain acquired French lands west of the Mississippi River—called Louisiana—as well as the port of New Orleans.

The Treaty of Paris marked the end of France as a power in North America. In its aftermath, North America was in the hands of two European powers—Great Britain and Spain.

PROGRESS CHECK

Reading HELPDESK



Explaining Why was William Pitt successful at managing the war for Britain?

Reading Strategy: Identifying the Main Idea

In most paragraphs, the main idea appears near the beginning. The rest of the paragraph often gives examples or details to help you understand the main idea. Read the first paragraph under the Guiding Question on the next page. Identify the main idea of the paragraph and three supporting details.

New British Policies

GUIDING QUESTION *How did the American colonists react to new British policies?*

The French defeat was a blow to Native Americans in the Ohio River Valley. They had lost their French allies and trading partners and now had to deal with the British. The British raised the prices of their goods. Unlike the French, the British refused to pay Native Americans to use their land. Worst of all, more colonists began settling in Native American lands.

Many Native Americans saw the settlers as a threat to their way of life. One of these was Pontiac, the chief of an Ottawa village near Detroit. In 1763, Pontiac and his forces captured the British fort at Detroit and other British outposts. During Pontiac's War, Native Americans killed settlers along the Pennsylvania and Virginia frontiers.

The same year as Pontiac's War began, Britain's King George declared that colonists were not to settle west of the Appalachian Mountains. To enforce the new rule, the British planned to keep 10,000 troops in America. The Proclamation of 1763 helped removed a source of conflict with Native Americans. It also kept colonists on the coast—where the British could control them.

Colonists believed the proclamation limited their freedom of movement. They feared that the large number of British troops might interfere with their liberties. As a result, distrust began to grow between Britain and its American colonies.

Britain's financial problems also led to trouble. Deeply in debt as a result of the war with France, the British government made plans to tax the colonies and tighten trade rules. These efforts would lead to conflict—and eventually revolution.

BIOGRAPHY



Pontiac, c. 1720–1769

Pontiac became an Ottawa chief while still a young man. A born leader, he brought together three tribes—the Ottawa, the Potawatomi, and the Ojibwa—in an alliance. As more British settlers moved into their lands, he convinced more tribes to join. Based on Pontiac's plans, these tribes attacked British forts and settlements. Pontiac himself led the successful attack on the fort at Detroit. Pontiac agreed to peace with the British in July 1766. Afterward, his allies turned against him.

► CRITICAL THINKING

Drawing Conclusions Why do you think Pontiac's former allies turned against him?

✓ PROGRESS CHECK

Examining Why did the Proclamation of 1763 anger colonists?

LESSON 4 REVIEW



Review Vocabulary

1. Write a sentence using the terms *alliance* and *Iroquois Confederacy*.
2. Write a sentence about the colonies using the word *militia*.

Answer the Guiding Questions

3. **Explaining** What was the role of the Ohio River valley in the growing conflict between the French, Native Americans, and British in the mid-1700s?

4. **Identifying** What was the role of William Pitt in the French and Indian War?

5. **Summarizing** Why were the American colonists dissatisfied with the outcome of the war?

6. **INFORMATIVE/EXPLANATORY** Write a paragraph that summarizes the Albany Plan of Union, including the problems it was meant to address and the response it received among the colonies.