

The Struggle for Land

READ TO DISCOVER

1. Which North American lands were claimed by France?
2. How did American Indians respond to colonists' desires for land and fur?
3. How did the British win the French and Indian War?

DEFINE

land speculators

IDENTIFY

René-Robert Cavalier,
Sieur de La Salle
Metacomet
Iroquois League
Albany Plan of Union
William Pitt
James Wolfe
Louis-Joseph de Montcalm

WHY IT MATTERS TODAY

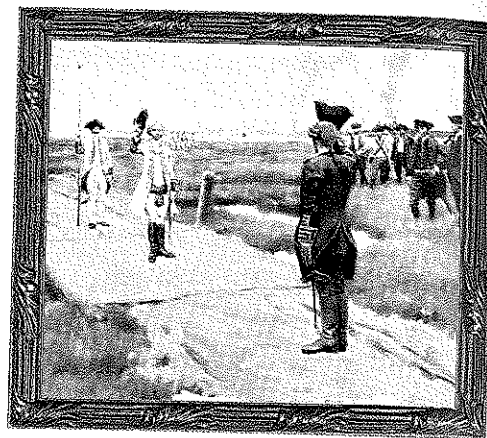
Nations continue to have conflicts over geographical areas that are claimed by more than one nation. Use CNNfyi.com or other **current events** sources to learn about examples of such conflicts. Record your findings in your journal.

CNNfyi.com

EYEWITNESSES TO History

“Our land forces laid siege to the town of Louisburg. This they did with such effect that one day I saw some of the ships set on fire by the shells from the batteries. . . . At last Louisburg was taken.”

—Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*



The French surrender to the British at Louisburg.

Enslaved African Olaudah Equiano, then serving under a British naval officer, described the 1758 British victory in the midst of a colonial war with France. The French fortress at Louisburg on Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia had been of major concern to the British since its construction in the 1720s. Louis-Antoine de Bougainville, a French military official, also witnessed the fall of Louisburg from the opposing side. “The night of seventeenth to eighteenth the enemy opened the trenches,” he recalled. “The landing made, the capture of the city was inevitable. . . . The place surrendered July 26.”

The French in North America

The conflict between France and Great Britain erupted as Britain’s North American colonial empire grew and expanded. As British frontiersmen and traders crossed the Appalachian Mountains into the Ohio Valley, they moved into territory claimed by both France and Britain. French land claims were based on the early voyages of Giovanni da Verrazano and Jacques Cartier, among others. Only after René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle explored the Mississippi River in the late 1600s did the French begin to build a series of forts along the river.

The founding of New Orleans in 1718 gave the French command of the Mississippi River. Four years later, according to one observer, New Orleans was still a “wild, lovely place” with only about 100 homes and a store that doubled as a church. Control of the Mississippi, thriving colonies along the St. Lawrence River, and knowledge of a water route through the Great Lakes put the French in a position to dominate the North American interior.

New France—France’s North American empire—never reached its potential strength. France claimed a huge area but settled very little of it. Most French colonists were either single men in search of riches and adventure or Jesuit priests seeking to convert American Indians.

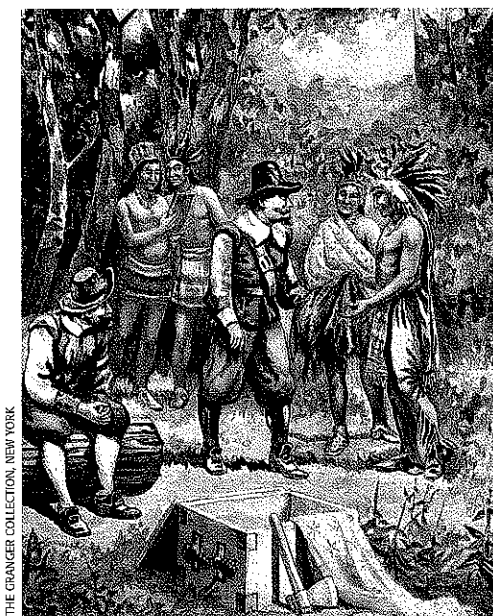
✓ **READING CHECK: Making Predictions** What might have been the result if France had actually settled all the lands it claimed?

Cultures Clash

The French colonial economy was tied to that of the American Indians. Indians included French fur traders in their trade networks early in the 1600s. American Indians desired European trade goods such as firearms, horses, and metal tools. To pay for those goods, they traded beaver pelts and other furs. “The beaver does everything perfectly well,” one American Indian explained. “It makes kettles, hatchets, swords, knives, bread . . . in short, it makes everything.”

The fur trade. The European desire for furs altered the way of life of many American Indians. They became increasingly dependent on the fur trade for survival. Some Indians devoted so much time to trapping and preparing furs that their villages were forced to buy food that they had once produced for themselves.

The fur trade also disrupted relations among nations. As Indian trappers killed off fur-bearing animals in one area, they moved their settlements to areas where the animals were still plentiful. Previously distant nations came into contact and competition with each other.



These Dutch settlers trade with American Indians.

Skill-Building

Strategies

Reading Effectively

Reading historical literature can be quite demanding. Textbook and supplemental reading assignments often cover large amounts of complex information. A well-planned reading strategy can help you organize and learn this information efficiently. It can also help you take note of questions and ideas that you should study further when preparing for a test.

3. **Review regularly.** When you reach the end of a small section, pause and recall the highlights of what you have just read. Then answer any study questions that are addressed in the section. When you finish reading the assignment, make sure that you can formulate answers to any review questions. Then decide which questions are most likely to appear on a future test.

How to Read Effectively

1. **Preview the assignment.** Before you begin reading the text of an assignment, carefully read the title, introduction, and any conclusions or summaries. Then look over any headings, subheadings, illustrations, and study questions. This process of previewing the text should give you a general idea of what you are about to learn.
2. **Read actively.** Rather than trying to read the whole assignment nonstop, divide it into small, manageable sections. As you read each section, keep an active lookout for key people, events, ideas, and relationships. If you have time, create notes about particularly important information on a separate sheet of paper.

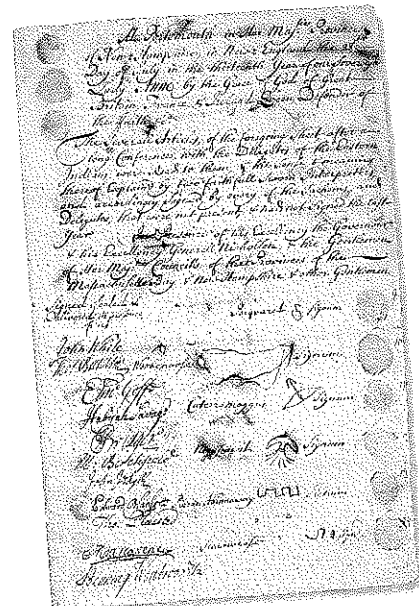
Applying the Skill

Before you read the segment of Section 4 on the French and Indian War, spend a minute previewing it. Then write a short paragraph that explains what you expect to learn from the section. Read the section.

Practicing the Skill

Answer the following questions.

1. What is the general topic of this section?
2. Who took part in the events described in this section? Where did these events take place?
3. What are three questions that you expect this section to answer?



This peace treaty ended Queen Anne's War.

Conflicts over land. The European desire for land had even more disastrous consequences for American Indians than did the European demand for furs. Europeans believed that land not registered by deed, cleared, or built upon was not owned. Since most Indian land appeared wild and unused, Europeans believed that it was there for the taking or even that it was going to waste. As one settler told a land agent, "It was against the laws of God and nature that so much land should be idle while so many Christians wanted it to work on."

American Indians viewed land differently. They recognized territorial boundaries, but not individual ownership. The loss of the land had serious consequences because it meant losing sources of food and sacred sites. English agricultural practices also destroyed many animal habitats. Miantonomo (my-an-tuh-NOH-moh), a Narraganset, observed as early as 1642:



"Our plains were full of deer, as also our woods, and of turkies, and our coves full of fish and fowl. But these English having gotten our land, they with scythes cut down the grass, and with axes fell the trees; their cows and horses eat the grass, and their hogs spoil our clam banks, and we shall be starved."

—Miantonomo

War in New England. Less than 20 years after Plymouth colony was founded, the Pequot and the English went to war over land. Beginning in 1636, the English and their Narraganset and Mohegan allies fought the Pequot, who were allied in the fur trade with the Dutch of New Netherland. The Pequot War ended in 1637, when the English burned a Pequot village and killed hundreds of people, virtually destroying the Pequot. Seeing what had happened to the Pequot, other peoples soon signed a formal treaty with the English. War broke out again in 1675, when the Wampanoag chief **Metacomb**—called King Philip by the English—led the American Indians against the colonists. An estimated 3,000 Indians—including Metacomb—died in the fighting. The Puritans sold most of the surviving Wampanoag as slaves. Ten years later a Frenchman observed that Indians in New England posed little threat: "The last Wars . . . have reduced them to a small Number, and consequently they are incapable of defending themselves."

The Iroquois League. In part, New Englanders owed their victory over the Wampanoag to the Mohawk. At the urging of the governor of New York, the Mohawk had driven Metacomb's forces out of New York, dealing them a crippling blow.

The Mohawk belonged to the **Iroquois League**, a political confederation of American Indian nations that spoke one of the Iroquoian languages. The Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, and Seneca of New York and Pennsylvania had formed the league in the 1400s or 1500s. After 1712 the Tuscarora, who had been forced out of North Carolina by settlers, joined them, and the confederation became known as the Six Nations.

The Iroquois League dominated the fur trade, extended its influence over American Indians to the west, and protected its members' independence. The Iroquois also acted as middlemen by obtaining furs from other American Indians and selling the furs to the English. They skillfully played the English and the French against each other, as needed to help the League.

✓ **READING CHECK: Identifying Cause and Effect** How did colonists' desires for fur and land affect American Indians?

Research on the ROM

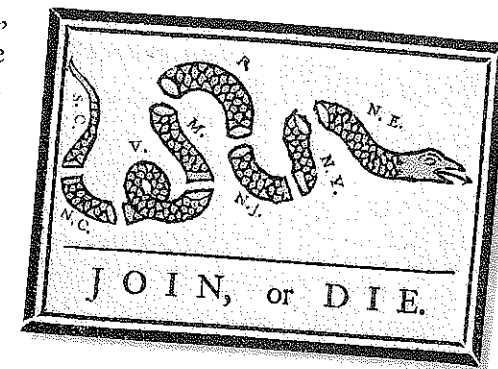
Free Find: Iroquois Great Law of Peace

After reading about the Iroquois Great Law of Peace on the **Holt Researcher CD-ROM**, create a version of the Great Law of Peace for the students in your class.

The French and Indian War

While the Iroquois League was building its trading community, England, France, and Spain were engaged in a worldwide struggle for empire. The fighting often spilled over into North America. Between 1689 and 1748, English colonists were dragged into three wars: King William's War (1689–97), Queen Anne's War (1702–13), and King George's War (1744–48).

To plan for defense and to recruit the Iroquois as allies, representatives from seven colonies met in Albany, New York, in 1754. Benjamin Franklin had earlier supported the idea of uniting the colonies. In 1751 he wrote that it "would be a very strange thing" if the Iroquois League could form such a confederation "yet a like Union should be impracticable for ten or a dozen English colonies to whom it is more necessary and must be more advantageous." At the Albany Congress Franklin had a chance to present these views. The colonial delegates adopted his **Albany Plan of Union**, which called for a loose confederation to promote defense. The colonial governments and Parliament rejected the plan, fearing that it would weaken Britain's power over the colonies.

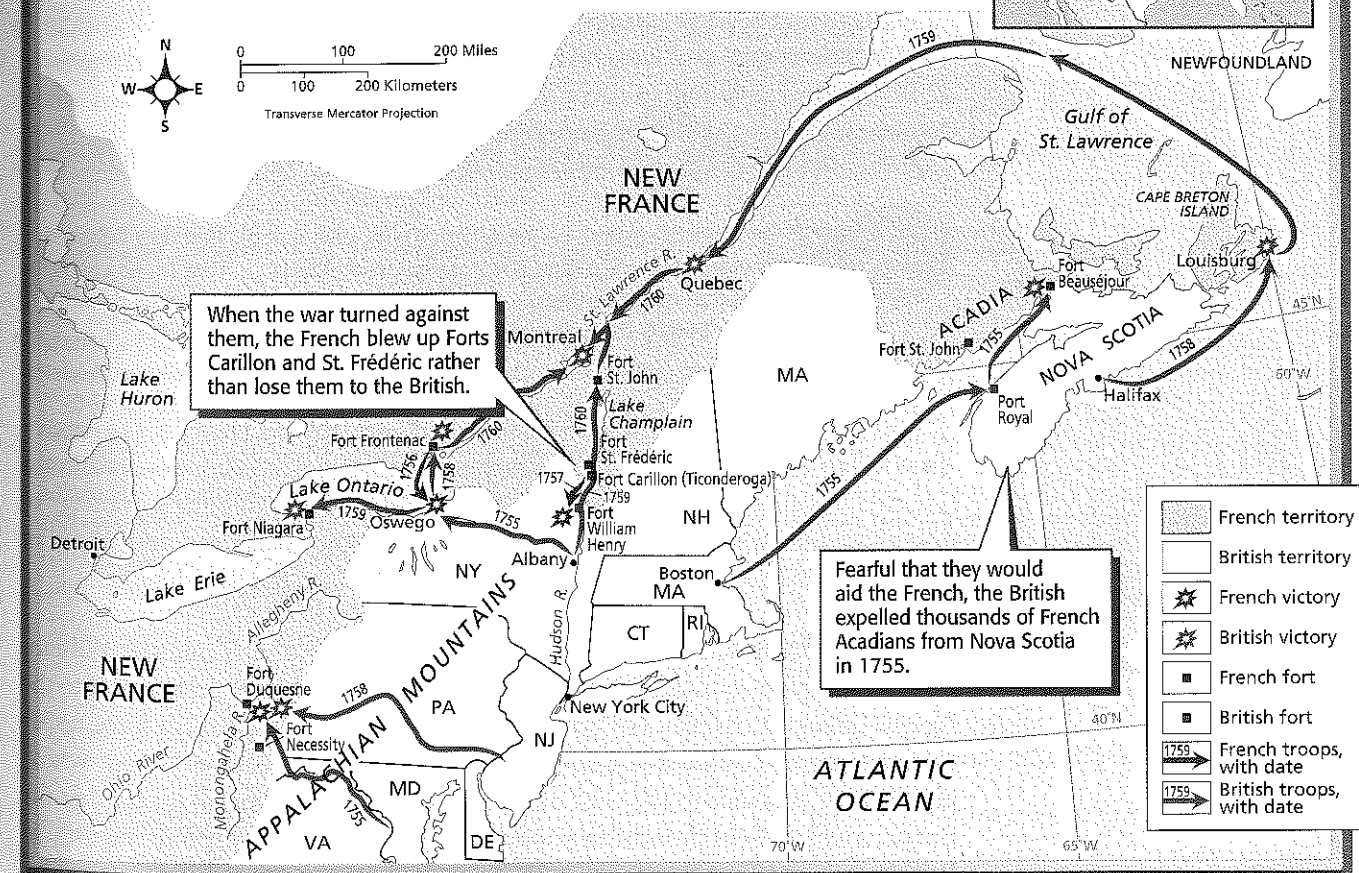


Benjamin Franklin created this illustration of the Albany Plan of Union.

French and Indian War, 1754–1763

Interpreting Maps At the end of the French and Indian War, France gave up most of its claims in North America to the victorious British.

PLACES AND REGIONS Where did French victories take place?



When the war turned against them, the French blew up Forts Carillon and St. Frédéric rather than lose them to the British.

Fearful that they would aid the French, the British expelled thousands of French Acadians from Nova Scotia in 1755.

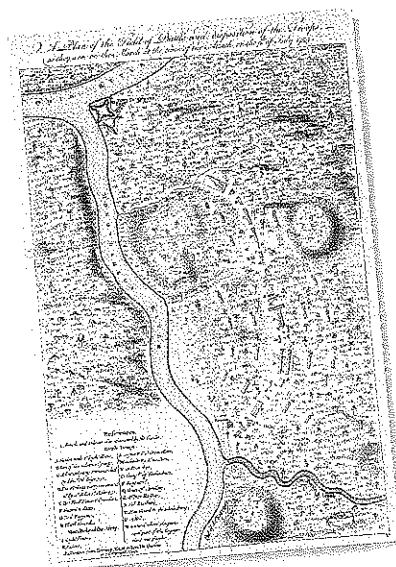
PRIMARY SOURCE

A Soldier's View of the French and Indian War

In the spring of 1758 sixteen-year-old David Perry, already a member of a Massachusetts militia company, enlisted to fight in the French and Indian War. During the war colonial militias fought under British command. Perry described a battle at Fort Ticonderoga in New York. **What does Perry's account reveal about the type of fighting that occurred during the war?**

“A short distance into the woods . . . we were met by the enemy, and a brisk fire ensued. It was the first engagement I had ever seen, and the whistling of balls and roar of musquetry [firearms] terrified me not a little. . . . The battle proved a sore one for us. Lord Howe and a number of good other men were killed.

The army moved on that day to within a short distance of the enemy, and encamped for the night. In the morning we had orders to move forward again, in a column three deep, in order to storm the enemy's breast-works [defensive walls], known in this country by the name of 'the Old French Lines.' Our orders were to 'run to the breast-work and get in if we could.' But their lines were full, and they killed our men so fast that we could not gain it. We got behind trees, logs, and stumps, and covered ourselves as we could from the enemy's fire. The ground was strewn with the dead and dying.”



This map shows the location of Fort Duquesne.

Competition for the Ohio Valley.

Unlike previous hostilities, the next major colonial conflict—the French and Indian War (1754–63)—began in the colonies. The conflict then spread to Europe in 1756, where it was known as the Seven Years' War. The war had first broken out in the Ohio River valley. Both the French and the British considered this region highly valuable.

Virginia **land speculators**—people who bought land expecting a quick profit from its resale—had acquired a large land grant in the Ohio Valley in 1749. To protect its investment, the Ohio Company—a group of Virginians and British—began building a fort at the junction of the Allegheny (al-uh-GAY-nee), Monongahela, (muh-nahn-guh-HEE-luh) and Ohio Rivers. The French, who considered the land theirs, drove the Company off, completed the fort, and named it Fort Duquesne (doo-KAYN). Outraged, Lieutenant Governor Robert Dinwiddie of Virginia sent young George Washington and a company of militia to expel the French. The French held firm, however.

The British then sent General Edward Braddock, Washington, and a large force of British and colonial soldiers to take the fort. The British panicked when they clashed with the French and their force of American Indians in July 1755. Washington described the British defeat in a letter to his mother.



“The English soldiers . . . were struck with such a panic that they behaved with more cowardice than it is possible to conceive. . . . They broke and ran as sheep pursued by dogs. . . . I luckily escaped without a wound, though I had four bullets through my coat, and two horses shot under me.”

—George Washington, letter to his mother, 1755

In August 1757 the British lost Oswego and Fort William Henry to the French. The “lightly clothed and armed” French and Indians succeeded, as one colonist reported, because they were “often on all Sides of us, . . . taking the Advantage of every Tree and Bush.” The Delaware Indians, whom the British had pushed out of eastern Pennsylvania, also launched attack after attack on the British settlers.

British victories. Britain's fortunes improved when cabinet minister **William Pitt** assumed full control of the war effort. Pitt poured money and troops into the North American conflict. His efforts paid off. In July 1758 a British force under General Jeffrey Amherst captured Louisburg on Cape Breton Island, which guarded the entrance to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Louisburg's fall meant that the British could prevent French supplies from reaching Canada. Then in August, the British captured Fort Frontenac on Lake Ontario. When the British marched on

Fort Duquesne in November, the French blew up the fort rather than surrender. The British then built a new fort near the same site, calling it Fort Pitt. It later became the site of present-day Pittsburgh.

After these British military successes, the Iroquois decided to support the British. The French lost their Indian allies in the Ohio Valley and soon withdrew to Canada.

The British pursued the French, determined to take Quebec. General **James Wolfe** was unable to lure the French commander, General **Louis-Joseph de Montcalm**, into battle. This changed once the British discovered a path that led from the St. Lawrence River up a cliff to Quebec. Under cover of night on September 13, 1759, the British army climbed the cliff and assumed battle formation. One British officer described the coming battle as a “total rout [defeat] of the enemy.” Wolfe and Montcalm died of injuries sustained during the battle. Quebec soon surrendered to the British. When Montreal fell a year later, France lost the last of its Canadian holdings.

The spoils of war. The war in North America essentially ended in 1761, but fighting continued elsewhere for two more years. In 1763 the Treaty of Paris ended hostilities in North America and awarded territories. The victorious British claimed Canada and all French holdings east of the Mississippi River except New Orleans. Spain, which had joined the French war effort in 1762, surrendered Florida to the British. In anticipation of this loss, Spain had received France's vast Louisiana territory west of the Mississippi in the 1762 Treaty of Fontainebleau.

✓ **READING CHECK: Sequencing** What events led to a British victory in the French and Indian War?

SECTION 4 REVIEW

1. Define and explain: land speculators

2. Identify and explain: René-Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle
Metacomet
Iroquois League
Albany Plan of Union
William Pitt
James Wolfe
Louis-Joseph de Montcalm

3. Sequencing Copy the tree chart below. Use it to trace the outcome of France's experience in North America from early exploration to the French and Indian War.

1. French North America
2. Early Exploration
3. Relationship with Indians
4. Struggle for Land
5. French and Indian War

4. Finding the Main Idea

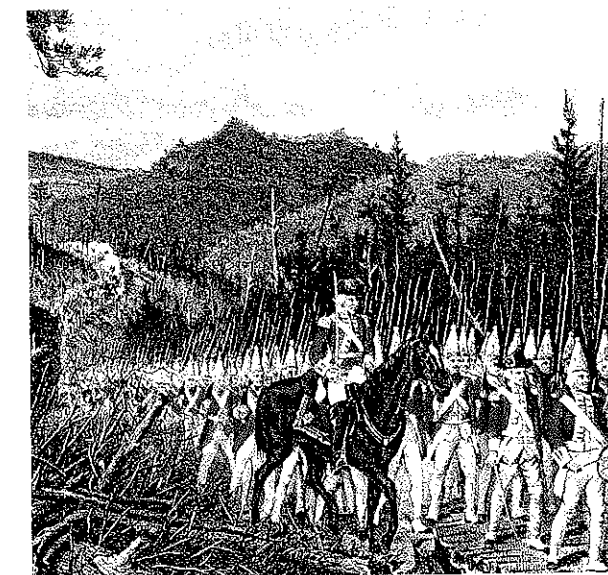
- How did Europeans' desire for furs and land affect American Indians?
- Why did American Indians become involved in conflicts between the French and the British? How did this affect them?
- What was the British strategy in the French and Indian War?

5. Writing and Critical Thinking

Evaluating Write a paragraph evaluating whether the growth of the British colonial population made the French and Indian War inevitable.

Consider:

- the effect of British population growth on relations with American Indians
- the effect of British population growth on relations with France
- specific conflicts that led to the French and Indian War



INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

Fort Duquesne. General Braddock's forces march toward Fort Duquesne. **How might the position of the British forces in the forest have put them at a disadvantage against American Indian forces?**

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