

The French and Indian War

One American's Story

Chief Pontiac was a leader of the Ottawa, a Native American group. When the British took over French forts in the Great Lakes area, Pontiac led his people in raids against them. This conflict is known as **Pontiac's Rebellion** (1763–1764). Addressing his followers, Pontiac said

PRIMARY SOURCE

“It is important for us, my brothers, that we exterminate from our lands this nation which seeks only to destroy us. . . . Therefore, my brothers, we must all swear their destruction and wait no longer.”

—Pontiac, quoted in *Pontiac and the Indian Uprising*

Pontiac's rebellion followed the **French and Indian War**, in which French forces fought British forces in North America. Each side had Native American allies.



Pontiac

Europeans in Native American Lands

KEY QUESTION Why were Native Americans involved in conflicts between Europeans?

The English and the French created rival empires in North America. The competition between these two European powers often led to war.

France Claims Western Lands The French claimed the Ohio River valley, the Mississippi River valley, and the Great Lakes region. The French territory of Louisiana, claimed by La Salle in 1682, stretched from the Ohio River valley to the Rocky Mountains. They called these lands “New France.” Some Europeans in New France were fur traders. Others were Jesuit (JEHZH•oo•iht) priests working to convert Native Americans to Christianity.

Native American Alliances The English competed with the French for furs. Different Native American groups also competed to supply furs to the Europeans. The fur trade created economic and military alliances between the Europeans and their Native American trading partners.

These alliances dragged the trading partners into each other's wars. In the 1600s and 1700s, European wars between France and England fueled wars in their colonies. Neither side won a clear victory in these conflicts.

 **CAUSES AND EFFECTS** Explain why Native Americans were involved in conflicts between Europeans.

War Begins and Spreads

 **KEY QUESTION** What alliances fought in the French and Indian War?

Just beyond the Appalachian Mountains, the Ohio River valley began attracting Pennsylvania fur traders and Virginia land companies. As more British colonists arrived in the area, the French feared losing control of the rivers that linked their Canadian and Louisiana settlements. With tensions mounting, the stage was set for the nine-year-long French and Indian War.

War in the Ohio River Valley The French sent troops to expel the British traders and to build forts to protect the region. This upset the Virginia colony, which claimed the land. In 1753, the governor of Virginia sent a force led by a 21-year-old major named George Washington to tell the French to leave.

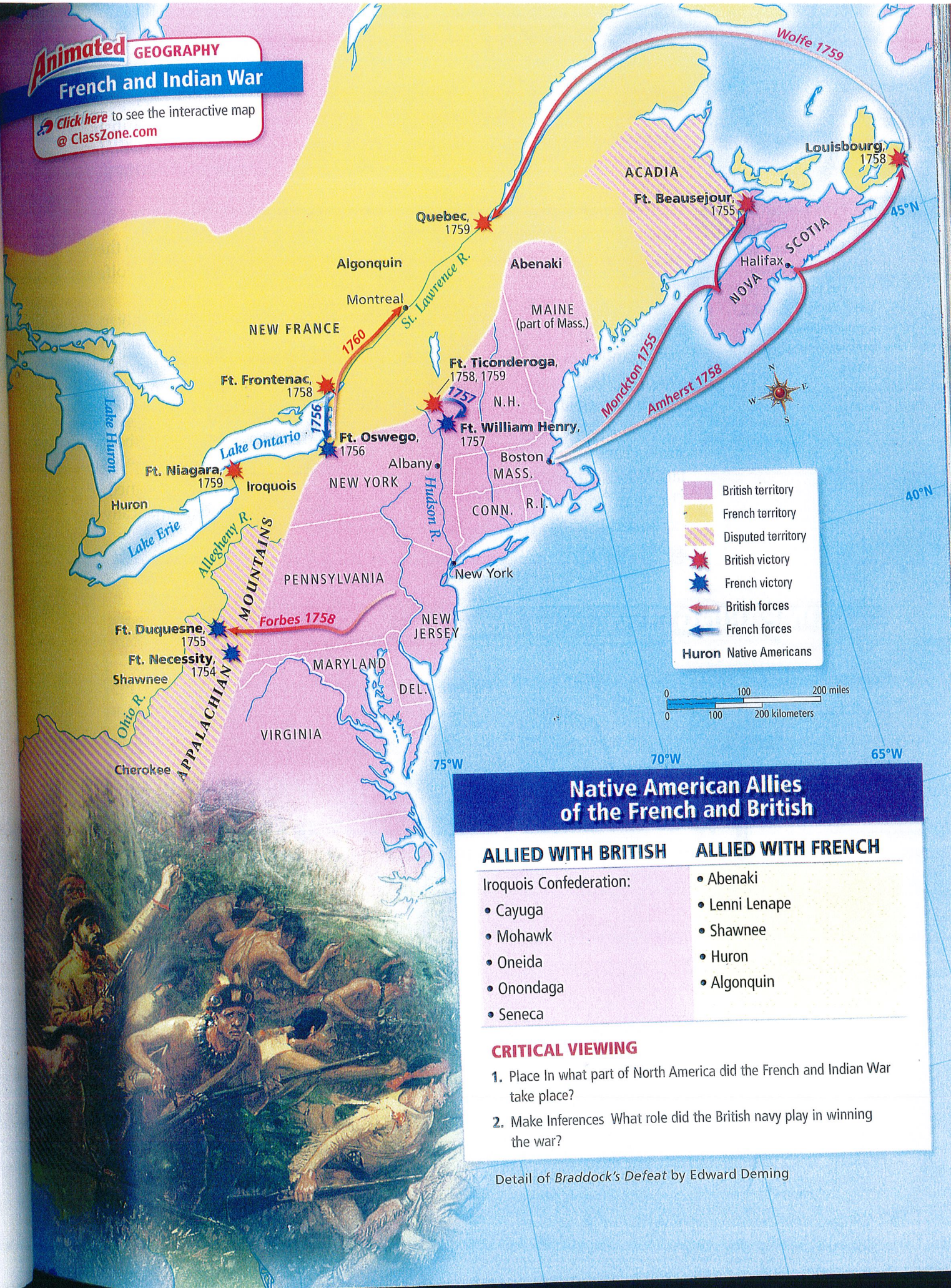
Washington neared Fort Duquesne (du•KAYN), a French fort at the forks of the Ohio River, where Pittsburgh now stands. He built a small fort, Fort Necessity. Following Washington's surprise attack on a French force, the French and their allies attacked Fort Necessity on July 3, 1754. Washington retreated to Virginia. The French and Indian War had begun.

The Huron, who lived around the Great Lakes, sided with the French. Meanwhile, the colonists were trying to form alliances of their own. Representatives from the British colonies and the Iroquois nations met at Albany, New York. The colonists wanted the Iroquois to join them against the French.

Benjamin Franklin suggested that the colonies band together for defense. His **Albany Plan of Union** was the first formal proposal to unite the colonies. It called for each colony to send representatives to a Grand Council. This council would collect taxes, raise armies, and make treaties. However, the colonial legislatures rejected the plan because they did not want to give up control of their own affairs.

Braddock's Defeat The British sent General Edward Braddock and two regiments to Virginia. In 1755, Braddock marched toward the French at Fort Duquesne. Washington was at his side. Their red-coated army of 2,100 moved slowly over the mountains, dragging a huge cannon.

On July 9, eight miles from Fort Duquesne, French and Native American troops surprised Braddock's forces. General Braddock was defeated and killed. Americans were stunned by Braddock's defeat and by other British losses over the next two years.



Native American Allies of the French and British

ALLIED WITH BRITISH

Iroquois Confederation:

- Cayuga
- Mohawk
- Oneida
- Onondaga
- Seneca

ALLIED WITH FRENCH

- Abenaki
- Lenni Lenape
- Shawnee
- Huron
- Algonquin

CRITICAL VIEWING

1. Place In what part of North America did the French and Indian War take place?
2. Make Inferences What role did the British navy play in winning the war?

Detail of Braddock's Defeat by Edward Deming

Connect to the World

The Seven Years' War

The French and Indian War was part of the Seven Years' War (1756–1763), a worldwide struggle between France and Great Britain.

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

The British lay siege to Quebec, which sits on cliffs 300 feet above the St. Lawrence River. In September, a scout found a steep path up the cliffs to the plains near Quebec. Under cover of darkness, British general James Wolfe and 4,000 of his men 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.

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 this help came too late. When the Seven Years' War ended in 1763, the **Treaty of Paris** was signed. The treaty ended nearly all French control in North America and dramatically expanded Britain's colonial empire.

SUMMARIZE Describe the alliances of the French and Indian War.

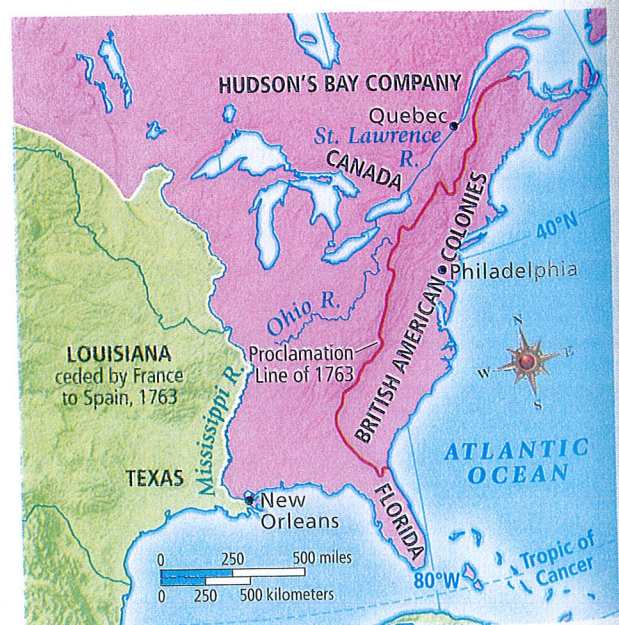
COMPARING

Prewar and Postwar Boundaries

Prewar Boundaries 1754



Postwar Boundaries 1763



Connect Geography & History

1. **Place** What was the southern limit of British territory in 1754?
2. **Evaluate** Which nation benefited most from the treaty?

CONNECT To The Essential Question



What traditions, events, and forces helped form an American identity?

Politics and Law

Colonists share legal and political traditions that come from England; expect to enjoy the "rights of Englishmen"; Enlightenment writers help spread idea that people can improve or change their government.

Education

High levels of literacy and education in some regions; children educated to read Bible.

Publishing

Colonists share information in the form of newspapers and books.

An American Identity Forms



War

French and Indian War unites colonists against common enemy.

Religion and Ideas


Great Awakening unifies colonies and challenges tradition; Enlightenment influences colonial ideas.

Economy

better economic opportunities in the colonies; more chance of owning land

CRITICAL THINKING Evaluate Which factor do you think was the most important in creating an American identity?

The New Colonial World

 **KEY QUESTION** How did the French and Indian War change the colonial world?

The French and Indian War not only enlarged British territory, it also changed the way that colonial Americans and Native Americans viewed themselves and their relationship with the British empire.

Pontiac's Rebellion After French forces withdrew, the British took over their forts. They refused to give gifts 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 then 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 those Native Americans who had not attacked them. British officers came up with a brutal plan to end the siege by the Lenni Lenape of Fort Pitt.

PRIMARY SOURCE

“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 Lenni Lenape war leaders to talk and then gave them **smallpox**-infected blankets as gifts. This started a deadly outbreak of the disease among the Native Americans.

By the fall, the Native Americans had retreated, and three years later a peace treaty was signed. Pontiac's Rebellion showed the British how difficult it was going to be to govern their vast new empire. To avoid further conflicts with Native Americans, the British issued the **Proclamation of 1763**. This forbade colonists from settling west of the Appalachian Mountains.

A New Colonial Identity The colonists were angry. They thought they had won the right to settle in the Ohio River valley. In turn, the British government was angry with the colonists, who insisted on settling on Native American lands.

The French and Indian War gave the 13 colonies their first taste of unity as they fought a common enemy. This feeling of unity grew as colonists found themselves in another dispute with Britain. With France no longer a threat, colonial leaders grew more confident in their complaints. The stage was set for the final conflict between the colonies and Britain.

 **MAKE INFERENCES** Explain how the French and Indian War changed the colonial world.



Section Assessment



ONLINE QUIZ

For test practice, go to
Interactive Review @ ClassZone.com

TERMS & NAMES

1. Explain the importance of
 - Pontiac's Rebellion
 - Battle of Quebec
 - French and Indian War
 - Treaty of Paris (1763)
 - Albany Plan of Union
 - Proclamation of 1763

USING YOUR READING NOTES

2. **Causes and Effects** Complete the diagram you started at the beginning of this section.

CAUSE	EFFECT
	Native Americans became involved in conflicts between Europeans.

KEY IDEAS

3. Why did Native American tribes form alliances with European powers?
4. What factors caused the French and Indian War?
5. Why were American colonists angry about the Proclamation of 1763?

CRITICAL THINKING

6. **Causes and Effects** What were some effects of Pontiac's Rebellion?
7. **Connect to Today** Many Native American groups were pulled into war because they were trading with the French or British. How do economic alliances continue to pull nations into war?
8. **Art** Imagine you are at the meeting in Albany. Create a poster urging colonial unity.