

# Foundations of America

## Studies Weekly

PAST AND PRESENT

5

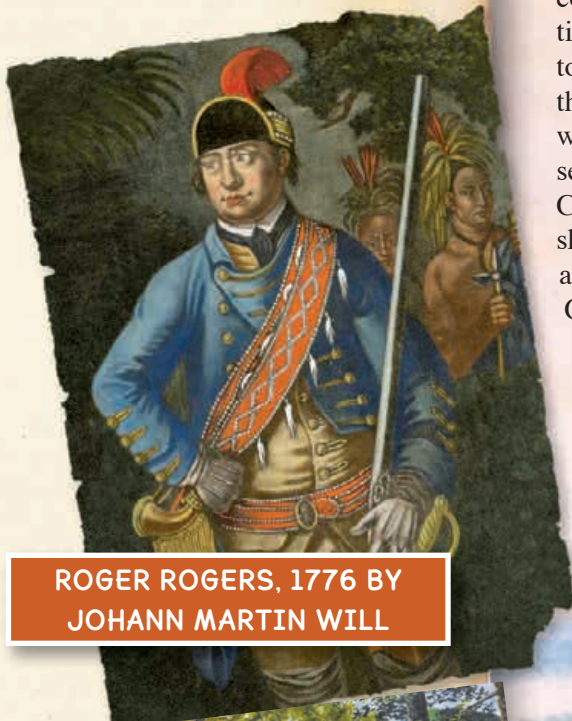
## THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

Land meant power to the European countries who were making claims and settling the Americas. By the mid-1700s both England and France had colonies on the east coast of North America. As time went on, each country expanded westward to claim more land. England and France knew that North America was filled with resources that would make them more rich and powerful. French settlements were to the north in what is now Canada. England claimed land from the Atlantic shores to the west to the Appalachian Mountains and beyond. These were the British American Colonies. Both countries were encouraging settlers to move into new lands. This land was not empty. It had been occupied by Algonquin and Iroquois for thousands of years. These American Indians also believed land and resources were for them to use.

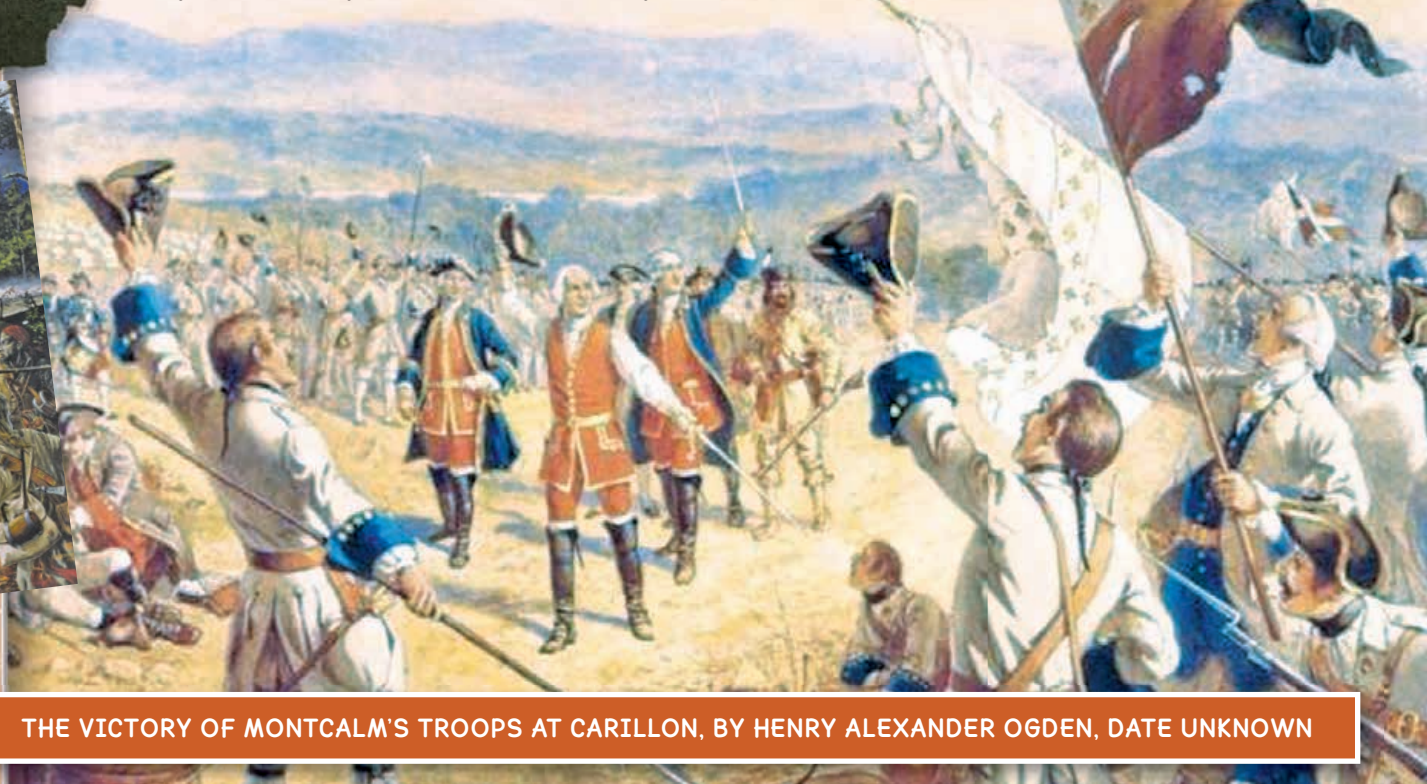
By 1754, France had claimed much of North America. England moved into the Ohio River Valley. Each country claimed this same valley

as their own. England had defeated France in earlier wars in North America. So, they confidently sent a message to the French and told them to leave. The French refused to leave.

The fighting began. Each side attacked the other's forts. Many soldiers on both sides were killed. The fighting moved to other areas of North America. For a few years, the conflict was considered a stalemate; it seemed that neither country was going to win. Finally, in September of 1760, the city of Montreal in Canada was surrendered to England by France. The French and Indian War, also known as the Seven Years' War, was over. England won.



ROGER ROGERS, 1776 BY JOHANN MARTIN WILL



THE VICTORY OF MONTCALM'S TROOPS AT CARILLON, BY HENRY ALEXANDER OGDEN, DATE UNKNOWN

### Connections

## George Washington Was Here

George Washington is famous for being the first president of the United States. He also led colonists in the Revolutionary War. But did you know that before he fought against England, he fought for England?

In 1753, the colony of Virginia was concerned that the French were building forts in the Ohio River Valley. Virginia considered that land part of their colony. The Virginia governor asked a 21-year-old soldier, George Washington, to deliver a message to the French. The message asked them to leave. Washington delivered the

letter, but the French refused the governor's request.

Governor Dinwiddie thought the French actions called for military force. He assigned Washington to recruit soldiers and lead that force. They were to remove the French from the valley. On the way to the French fort, Washington received word that there might be a small French force moving toward his location. He had asked Tanacharison, a leader of the Mingo, to be a guide for him. The two met and decided to take a small group of soldiers and warriors to confront

the French.

The French were camped in a deep glen. When the forces confronted each other, someone fired a shot. Different people told different stories about what happened next. Everyone agreed that Sieur de Jumonville, the French leader, was killed. The French blamed Washington. Washington blamed Tanacharison. The French said Jumonville was a diplomat. The British said he was a spy. Both countries sent more soldiers, which contributed to the start of the French and Indian War.





# Major Events of the French and Indian War

## Fort Duquesne

Fort Duquesne was a French fort during the time of the French and Indian War. Its location in the Ohio River Valley allowed for easy trade and westward expansion. So, it became an important place that both the French and the British wanted to control. To force the French out of it, George Washington led a group of 300 men toward the fort. However, the French refused to leave the area. As a result, Washington attacked a campsite of about 30 Frenchmen and their leader. This attack is considered the first battle of the war. Afraid that this attack would result in a counterattack from the French and Indians, Washington retreated to Fort Necessity. This British fort was a short distance away and was still under construction at the time. Fort Duquesne would continue to be a fighting ground during the war until the British took control of it in September of 1758.

## Battle at Fort Necessity

Fort Necessity was completed on June 3, 1754. Soon after, the French organized an attack against Washington and his men at the fort. Some 800 French and Indian men appeared and surrounded the fort. They opened fire from the shelter of the neighboring woods. Washington had prepared for the attack by digging a trench around the fort. However, heavy rain flooded the trench and ruined the gunpowder supply. His regiment suffered heavy losses, and at dusk, the French commander called to arrange a truce. With no hope for aid from the British army, Washington signed the surrender. Defeated, Washington and his men marched out of the fort and returned to Virginia. The Battle at Fort Necessity was the only time that George Washington ever surrendered.

## Battle of Quebec

Early battles in the war were mostly French victories. However, the tide was turning as the British arrived at the French city of Quebec in June 1759. The British held positions to the north and south of the city. Yet, they could not launch a successful attack. French forces and strong river currents blocked their path. A group of British ships were eventually able to sail upriver of the city. There, British forces led an attack on a French outpost. The French responded with a quick attack. As they got closer to enemy lines, they were overwhelmed with gunfire and were forced to retreat. With little hope to recover, the French forces escaped and surrendered the city to the British on September 18, 1759. Control of the city would go back and forth between the opposing

sides until French Canada was won by the British in September 1760.

## The Treaty of Paris

The Treaty of Paris was signed in Paris on February 10, 1763. It officially ended the French and Indian War. In the terms of the treaty, the British received Canada from France and Florida from Spain. The British did allow France to keep the West Indies and gave Louisiana to Spain. This agreement strengthened the colonies by opening up the Mississippi River Valley to further expansion. Also, it almost completely removed France and Spain from the New World. However, while their European rivals had been defeated in the war, Britain would soon find new enemies: its own colonists.



KING GEORGE III

GEORGE WASHINGTON

KING LOUIS XV

CHIEF PONTIAC

## What Role Did The American Indians Play in the War?

French and British settlers and traders were competing for control of land and trade in North America. At the same time, other American nations were competing for resources. American Indian nations grew crops, hunted on their lands and also earned money by selling furs. Many American Indians had died from disease, so they also sometimes sought to bring more territory and people into their nations.



GENERAL JOHNSON SAVING A WOUNDED FRENCH OFFICER FROM THE TOMAHAWK OF A NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN, BY BENJAMIN WEST, DATE UNKNOWN

One of the most powerful nations was the Iroquois. They lived in the area just east of the Great Lakes. The Iroquois had fought against, traded with, and received tribute gifts from the French, the British and many nearby tribes. Iroquois warriors had defeated rivals like the Huron, north of the Great Lakes.

When the French and British began fighting, four Iroquois chiefs traveled to London to meet with the British government. The Iroquois chose to side with the British. Two southern tribes, the Catawba and the Cherokee, also fought on the British side.

Most northern nations chose to side with France. Many had sold furs to the French for years. The Wabanaki Confederacy, Ojibwe and other Algonquian nations agreed to participate. These nations had been allies of the Huron and opposed the Iroquois.

American Indian ideas about war were different from European ideas about war. In general, American Indian warriors focused on scouting and raids. They saw the direct battles the French and British fought as a waste of life.

None of the American Indian nations benefited from the war. During the war, more French and British troops came onto American Indian lands. When the French lost the war, the Great Lakes region stopped being a buffer between the empires. More European settlers came onto American Indian lands. These settlers were harder to live near than trappers and merchants had been.

## North American Colonies Before and After the War

Political maps are designed to show the boundaries, cities and roads of an area. Wars have a way of changing these man-made features. The reason wars happen is usually because two countries cannot come to an agreement about a piece of land. When the war is over, boundaries may have been moved. Cities may have been added or removed. Countries may have been renamed.

In the case of the French and Indian War, it was about more than just the land. Both countries wanted to expand their settlements into the fertile land of this region. There was also the very valuable fur trade at stake. But the big goal was control of the North American Continent and the important trade route, the Ohio River. Both countries built forts and trading posts in the Ohio River Region. Seven years later, they were forced to come to an agreement. The 1763 Treaty of Paris was signed by France and England. They had to agree to what the treaty said. As you look on the political maps of the eastern part of North America, you can see how the war changed the ownership of the continent. The changes made at the end of the French and Indian War would have an impact on what would happen next in the story of the English Colonies.

Study the political map. Which country was the winner? Support your answer with information from the text and the maps.



## Proclamation of 1763

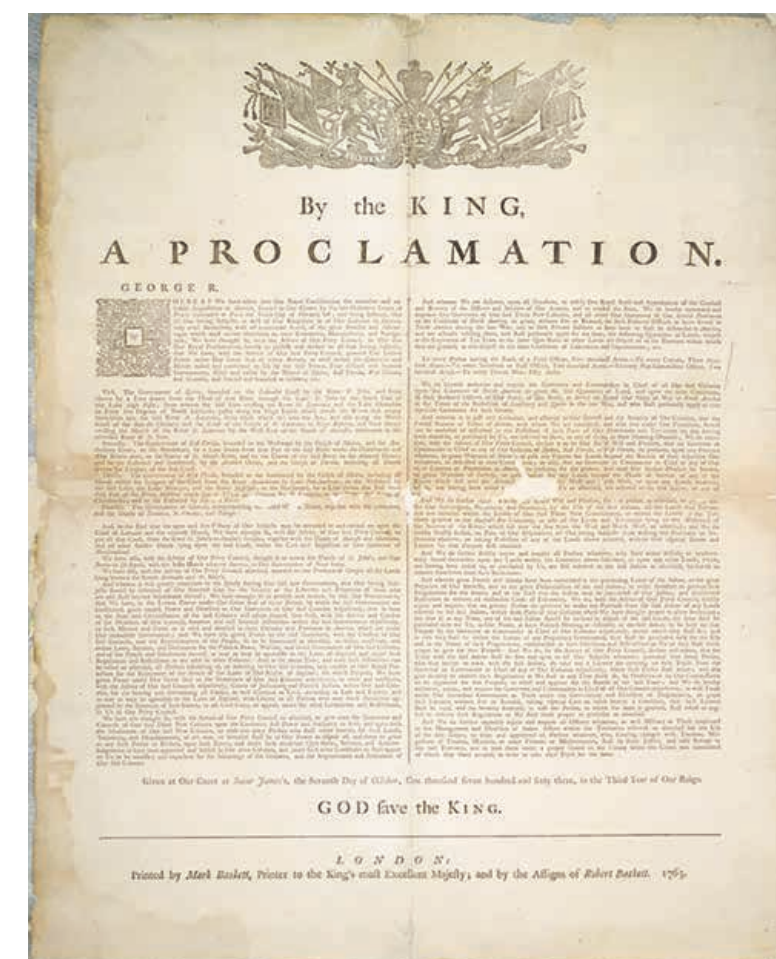
By the time the French and Indian War began, the population of the colonies was increasing, and land was becoming harder to find. People from the English colonies had already begun to move west into the Ohio River Valley. They hoped to find rich, fertile land for themselves and their families. Before the war, a young surveyor named George Washington had measured out land in the Ohio Valley. He hoped to own this land one day.

After the war, King George proclaimed that the land won in the war was now off-limits to the colonists. This was meant as a reward for the American Indians for their help in defeating the French. It was also an effort on behalf of the British to protect the colonists from American Indian attacks. The British government didn't want to deal with conflicts between new settlers and the American Indians. If conflicts arose, only the British government would

be allowed to make agreements between the American Indians and the settlers.

The war had been expensive for England to fight. The king was not just restricting the colonists' access to the Ohio Valley. He was also asking the colonies to help pay the debts left by the war. The taxes imposed were not large taxes. However, the colonists had no representation in the English Parliament. They did not have a say about whether these taxes were fair and reasonable.

The colonists were shocked and angry. They had helped fight a war to gain this land. They believed this gave them the right to live anywhere they chose on the land the British had won. Colonists continued to move into the Ohio River Valley anyway. The king sent more soldiers to the colonies to enforce the Proclamation and the new taxes Parliament enacted. This was the beginning of tensions between Great Britain and the Colonies.





Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Stakeholders

# Activity

There were many different groups of people involved in this conflict. It eventually became what some historians call the “First World War,” as the conflict spread to French, English and Spanish colonies around the world. In the beginning, several different groups claimed the land and

resources of the Ohio River Valley. These groups were stakeholders. Each stakeholder had their own interests and reasons to defend as the conflict grew. Use the chart below to examine and record the different views of these groups during the French and Indian War.\*\*

STAKEHOLDERS	FRENCH	ENGLISH	COLONISTS	AMERICAN INDIANS
What was their interest in the Ohio River Valley?				
How did they view their position in regard to this area and its resources?				
What was their desired outcome of the war?				
What were the results of the war for this group?				



1. How did England and France think they would become more powerful?
2. Why did the American Indians fight in the French and Indian War?
3. Why was George Washington forced to surrender at the Battle at Fort Necessity?
4. Why couldn't the British mount an attack on Quebec at first?
5. How did tension begin between Great Britain and its colonists in the Americas?
6. Why were so many people interested in the Ohio River Valley?

## Think & Review

## Let's Write

Explain how the different tribes of American Indians that were involved in the French and Indian War. Who did they fight for? Use specific details from the articles.