

LESSON 3

1750

1770

1754
French and Indian
War begins

1759
British
capture
Quebec

1763
French and Indian War
ends with British victory



The French and Indian War

PREVIEW

Focus on the Main Idea

In the French and Indian War, the British, French, and Native Americans fought for control of a large part of North America.

PLACES

Fort Necessity
Ohio River valley
Fort Duquesne
Quebec

PEOPLE

George Washington
Metacom
Hendrick
Pontiac
George III

VOCABULARY

King Philip's War
backcountry
French and Indian War
Pontiac's Rebellion
Proclamation of 1763

You Are There

George Washington knows that he is about to be attacked. While his men rush to finish building a small fort, the 22-year-old colonel takes a moment to report on the recent action. It is May 29, 1754. Yesterday, in an early morning surprise attack, Washington's soldiers defeated a small French force. "The battle lasted about 10 or 15 minutes, sharp firing on both sides," Washington writes.

But Washington knows he is in greater danger than ever. There are hundreds of French soldiers nearby, and it will not be long until they find him. He hopes his men have time to finish their fort—a small shelter with log walls. It is not much of a fort, but it is all they have time to build. They call it Fort Necessity. "We expect every hour to be attacked by a superior force," Washington writes. "Let them come, what hour they will."

Cause and Effect As you read, pay attention to the causes and effects of the French and Indian War.

Conflicts Over Land

George Washington was a young military leader from Virginia. Washington and his soldiers built **Fort Necessity** on a meadow in what is now southwestern Pennsylvania. What was Washington doing here in 1754? And why was he fighting the French? This story begins many years earlier.

As you have read, the first English colonists in North America built small settlements along the Atlantic coast. Throughout the 1600s, the population of the colonies grew quickly. Settlers wanted more land to build towns and farms and they began moving west. Native Americans, who had been living on this land for thousands of years, resisted English settlement.

In New England, the conflict led to war in 1675. A Wampanoag leader named **Metacom**, son of Chief Massasoit, led several Native American groups into battle against the English settlers. Metacom's goal was to force the English out of New England. The English called Metacom "King Philip," and this war became known as **King Philip's War**. After a year of bitter fighting, Metacom was killed. The English settlers won King Philip's War. They now controlled most of New England.

During the 1700s, settlers continued moving west. As colonial cities, towns, and plantations grew, land along the Atlantic coast became more and more expensive. In search of land of their own, some families



► **Metacom led the Wampanoag and other Native Americans in King Philip's War. This club (above) was probably used by Metacom.**

began moving to an area called the **backcountry**. This was a rugged stretch of land near the Appalachian Mountains. Families built log cabins, hunted, and carved small farms from the rocky soil.

By the middle 1700s, settlers were moving even farther west. They crossed the Appalachian Mountains and entered the **Ohio River valley**—a region of fertile land and thick forests along the Ohio River. But other groups also claimed these lands. Powerful Native American tribes lived there. And the French claimed it was part of New France. Who would control this region? As George Washington discovered in May 1754, this question would be decided by war.

REVIEW What was one effect of King Philip's War? **Cause and Effect**



The Ohio River Valley

France's claim on the Ohio River valley was based on the explorations of Robert La Salle. Do you remember what La Salle did when he reached the mouth of the Mississippi River? He claimed the river and all its tributaries for France. One of these tributaries is the Ohio River. Therefore, the French claimed the Ohio River valley as part of New France. The French began building forts to defend this region.

England, now known as Great Britain, also claimed the Ohio River valley. In 1753, British leaders wrote a stern letter to the French, stating that the land along the Ohio River was "known to be the property of the Crown of Great Britain." The British demanded that the French leave

the area immediately. George Washington was sent to deliver the letter.

Four months later, Washington returned with the French response. The French refused to leave. In March 1754, Washington marched west again. This time he commanded about 150 soldiers. His mission was to help build a British fort at the strategic spot where the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers join to form the Ohio River. But he soon learned that the French were already there, building **Fort Duquesne** (doo KAYN). Washington decided to try to capture this French fort.



REVIEW On what did France base its claim of the Ohio River valley?

Summarize

► This painting shows George Washington around the time he was a British army officer.

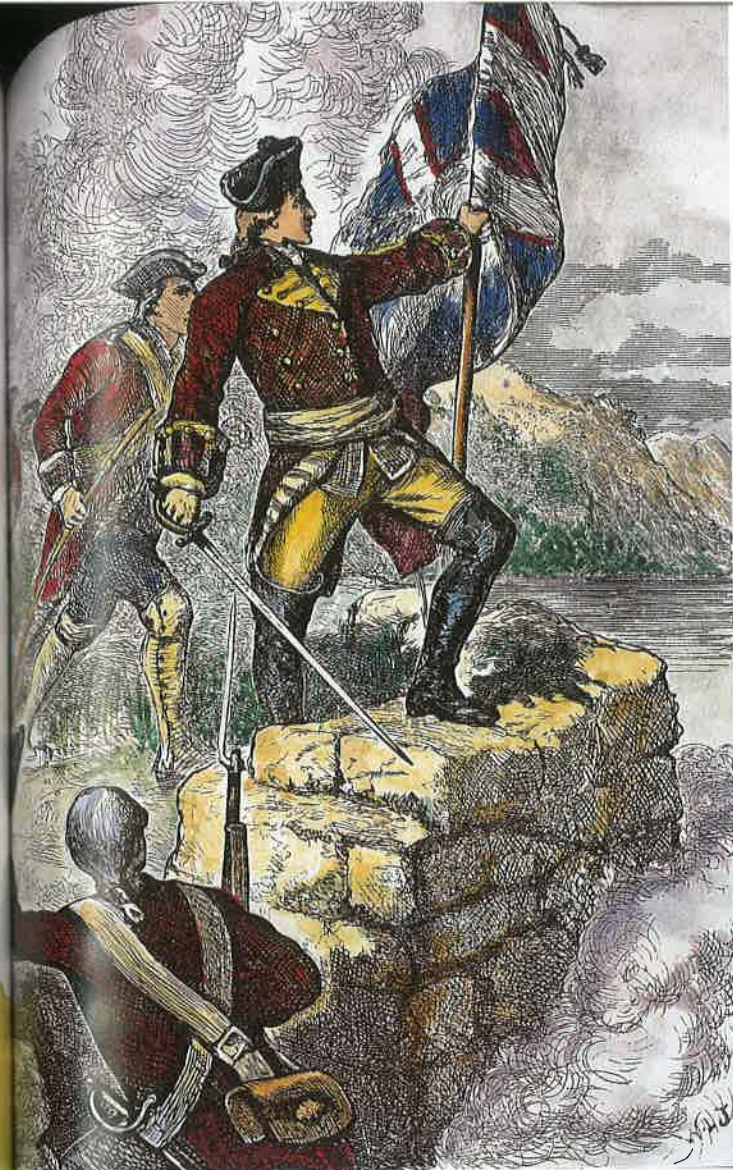
Map Adventure

Washington's First Battle

George Washington fought his first battle in the woods south of Fort Duquesne.

1. Do you think Fort Duquesne was built on an important spot? Why or why not?
2. Did Washington accomplish his goal of capturing Fort Duquesne? How can you tell?
3. What did Washington do after the battle?





Stock Montage Image Collection

► George Washington led British soldiers in the French and Indian War.

The French and Indian War

Washington and his soldiers did not reach Fort Duquesne. In the woods near the French fort, Washington attacked and defeated a group of French soldiers. After the battle, Washington and his men returned to Fort Necessity—a small log fort they had begun building a few days before. The French attacked on a rainy day in early July 1754. After many of his men were killed or wounded, Washington was forced to surrender. Soaked and exhausted, the soldiers returned to Virginia.

These small battles were the start of a long war between Britain and France. In the 13 Colonies, the war was called the **French and Indian War**, because British forces fought against the French and their American Indian allies.

The British tried to gain Native American allies of their own. At a meeting in Albany, New York in 1754, leaders of the British colonies asked the powerful Iroquois League to join in the fight against the French. Iroquois leaders resisted, however. An Iroquois leader named **Hendrick** said that the British and French were “quarrelling about lands which belong to us, and their quarrel may end in our destruction.”

In 1755, the British made another attempt to capture Fort Duquesne. Led by General Edward Braddock, 2,100 soldiers chopped their way through the Pennsylvania forests. George Washington was with this army. On July 9, just eight miles from Fort Duquesne, the British were attacked by French and Indian forces. Washington later wrote that many British soldiers panicked and “ran as sheep before the hounds.” General Braddock was killed, and the British were defeated. Washington wrote to his family that,

“...I had four bullets through my coat and two horses shot under me, and yet escaped unhurt.”

This was the first in a series of French victories over the British. It looked like Britain would lose the war. Then, in 1758, things began to change.

REVIEW According to Hendrick, why did the Iroquois resist joining the British?

Draw Conclusions

British Victory

In London, British leaders were worried about the way the war was going. They decided to send more soldiers to fight in North America. In 1758, British forces began winning battles against the French. The British were also helped by the Iroquois, who agreed to join the British side in 1759. Iroquois leaders hoped that victory in battle would help the Iroquois increase their power and maintain control of their lands.

The key battle of the war was fought at **Quebec**, the capital of New France. Led by British General James Wolfe, British forces captured Quebec in September 1759. This victory helped Great Britain win the French

and Indian War. The war officially ended when Britain and France signed the Treaty of Paris in 1763. As the maps below show, Britain took over most of New France. Spain gained control of French lands west of the Mississippi.

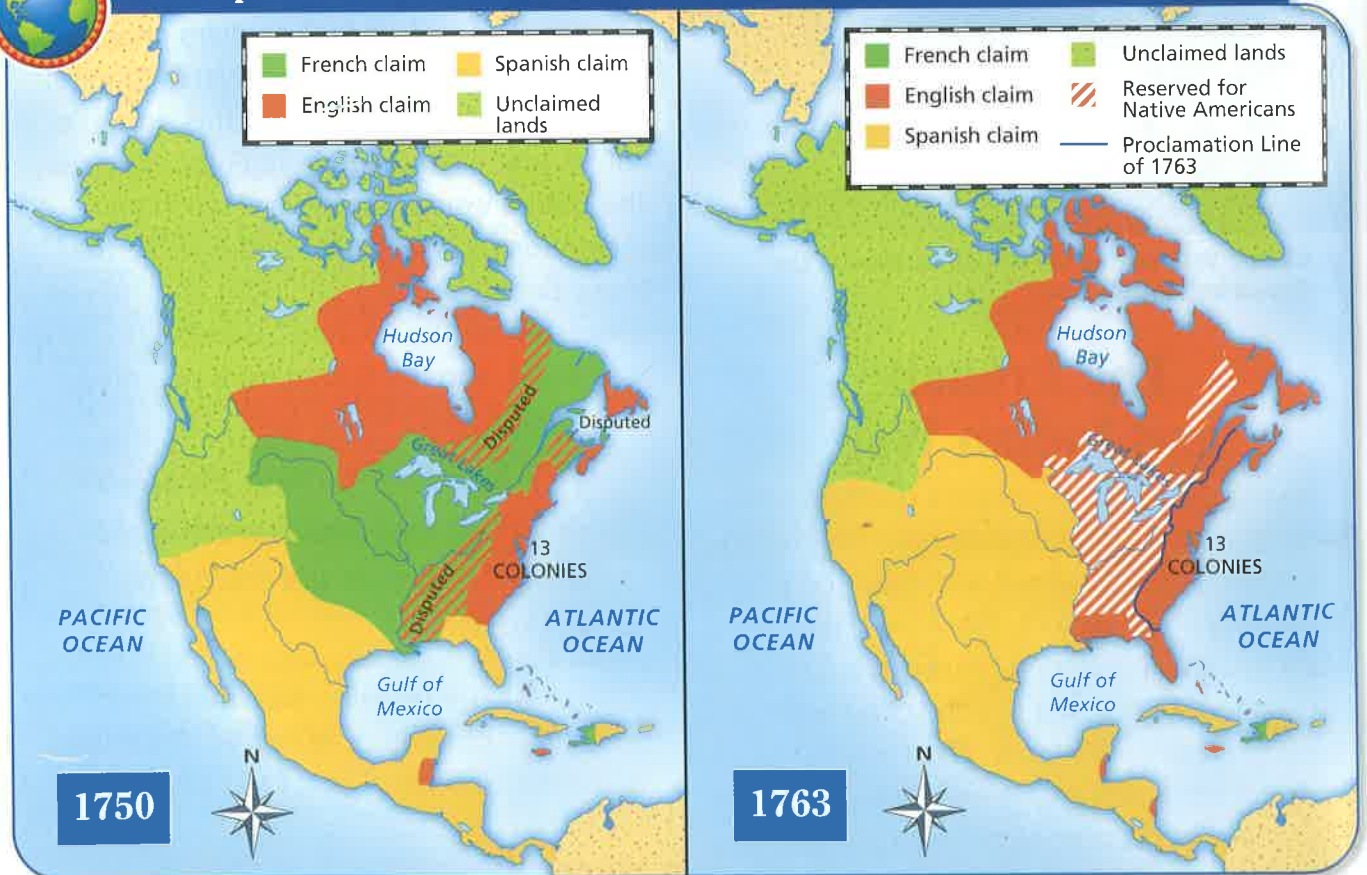
The French and Indian War also had a major impact on the Native Americans of North America. The traditional lands of many American Indian peoples were now part of the British empire. And British settlers were eager to move onto this land.

REVIEW Where was the key battle of the French and Indian War fought?

Main Idea and Details



European Land Claims



► As a result of the French and Indian War, Britain gained a huge amount of land from France.

MAP SKILL Region Which country claimed land in the northern part of North America?

Pontiac's Rebellion

Many Native Americans resisted the new British settlers. In 1763, an Ottawa leader named **Pontiac** called on his warriors to revolt against the British. Britain, he declared, "seeks only to destroy us." Native Americans from many tribes attacked British forts and settlements in the Ohio River valley and along the Great Lakes. This fighting was known as **Pontiac's Rebellion**. Pontiac won several victories before the British put down the rebellion.



British leaders were alarmed by Pontiac's Rebellion. They did not want to continue fighting Native Americans on lands won from France. Britain's King **George III** issued the **Proclamation of 1763**. This proclamation, or official announcement, said that colonists were no longer allowed to settle on land west of the Appalachian Mountains.

The king hoped this would prevent future Native American rebellions. The proclamation was not popular among many colonists who wanted new lands to settle. Tensions between the colonists and the British government began to grow.

REVIEW What was a cause of the Proclamation of 1763?

Cause and Effect

▶ Pontiac led a revolt of several tribes against the British.

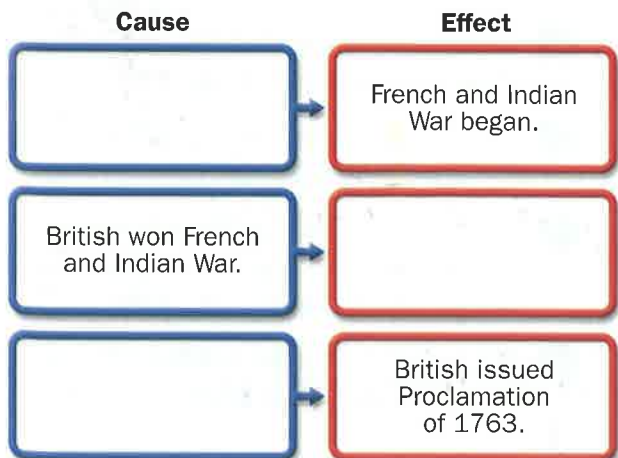
Summarize the Lesson

- 1754 George Washington fought in the first battles of the French and Indian War.
- 1759 British forces captured Quebec, helping Britain win the French and Indian War.
- 1763 The Treaty of Paris gives Britain control of most of New France.

LESSON 3 REVIEW

Check Facts and Main Ideas

1. **Cause and Effect** On a separate sheet of paper, complete this diagram showing causes and effects of the French and Indian War.



2. What factors led to conflicts between the British and the Native Americans?
3. Where and when did the **French and Indian War** begin?
4. What factors helped the British begin winning battles in the late 1750s?
5. **Critical Thinking: Evaluate** Why did the outcome of the French and Indian War lead to new conflicts between British settlers and Native Americans?

Link to Geography

Use an Atlas Look back at the map on page 248 and find Fort Duquesne. An important American city now stands on this spot. Using an atlas, find the name of this city.