Wars of Empire

Objectives
- Describe the causes and major events of the French and Indian War.
- Analyze the causes and effects of Pontiac’s Rebellion.
- Summarize how the wars and their outcomes changed the relationship between Britain and the colonies.

Terms and People
- George Washington
- Proclamation of 1763
- French and Indian War
- Albany Plan of Union
- Pontiac’s Rebellion

NoteTaking
Reading Skill: Recognize Sequence  As you read, keep track of the sequence of events that led to the French and Indian War.

Why It Matters  Conflict between the great European empires spread to the American colonies throughout the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. The British and the colonists fought a series of wars against the French and their American Indian allies.

European Competition and the Colonies

By the mid-eighteenth century, England, France, Spain, and the Netherlands were locked in a worldwide struggle for empire. In North America, Britain’s greatest rival was France. While Britain controlled the 13 colonies on the Atlantic seaboard, France controlled a vast territory that extended from the St. Lawrence River to the Gulf of Mexico.

Between 1689 and 1748, the British and the French fought a series of wars. Most of the fighting took place in Europe, but some spilled over into North America. Before long, British colonists were drawn into the war.

American Indians Affect the Balance of Power  Each war between England and France was followed by a treaty that resolved nothing. Great Britain longed to drive the French from North America, and to accomplish this, the British needed to neutralize the great

Vocabulary Builder

Restrain  v. to hold back from action

After King John accepted the Magna Carta in 1215, English nobles had the power to restrain the monarch from levying new taxes.
European Competition and the Colonies

Teach

Instruct

- **Introduce** Tell students that the French and the British were at war in the mid-eighteenth century, competing to build an empire. Ask students to predict how this conflict will affect life in the North American colonies.

- **Teach** Note that most Native Americans supported the French in this French-British rivalry. Using the Think-Write-Pair-Share strategy (TE, p. T23), have students discuss factors that made this the case. Ask Why did most Native Americans support the French rather than the British? (In general, the Native Americans saw the French as less of a threat. Fewer French people in North America were building permanent settlements and taking Native American lands. The French also treated the Native Americans with more respect.) What benefit did the Indians expect to get from supporting the French? (They hoped to weaken the more powerful British and preserve the balance of power between the two countries, which was to the Indians’ advantage.)

- **Quick Activity** Have students read the Primary Source quotation and discuss how the Native American view of land differs from the European view.

Independent Practice

Have students create a graphic organizer that compares the way that the French and the British treated Native Americans before the French and Indian War.

Monitor Progress

As students fill in their sequence charts, circulate to make sure that they have noted the correct sequence of events that led to the French and Indian War. For a completed version of the sequence chart, see Note Taking Transparencies, B-26.

Answer

- **Both were great European powers that competed with each other.**
- **The American Colonies Take Shape**

French advantage: French support from most of the American Indians in the region. Native Americans dominated the forest passages between the frontiers of the rival empires.

The Indians benefited from their middle position between the competing empires. The British and French both gave generous gifts, especially of arms and ammunition, to woo the Indians. If one empire won a total victory, the Indians would lose their leverage and receive harsher treatment from the victors.

Thus, the Indians recognized the importance of preserving the balance of power between the French and the British.

The Balance Shifts

That balance began to tip as the British colonial population grew. In 1754, the 1,500,000 British colonists greatly outnumbered the 70,000 French. The increasingly powerful British often treated the Indians harshly and did little to stop settlers from taking Indian lands.

Compared to the British, the French were more restrained. Needing Indian allies, the French treated most Native Americans with respect and generosity. The outnumbered French worked with their Indian allies to resist British colonial expansion. The French built a string of small forts and trading posts along the Great Lakes and down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Lightly built and thinly manned, the posts depended upon the Indians for protection. Most Indians accepted these posts because, as one chief explained, “we can drive away the French when we please.” That was not true of the British. Yet, while most Native Americans supported the French, some fought for the British.

Checkpoint

Why did the French and British fight frequently during the 1600s and 1700s?

The French and Indian War

One point of conflict between France and Great Britain was the fertile Ohio River valley, which was claimed by both countries but was largely unsettled. To discourage British colonists from moving into this area, the French built Fort Duquesne in what is now western Pennsylvania.

The new fort angered the British governor of Virginia, Robert Dinwiddie. In 1754, he sent colonial troops to evict the French. Dinwiddie entrusted the command to a young, ambitious Virginian named George Washington. His troops attacked and defeated a small French force. But Washington had to surrender when the French counterattacked. His defeat touched off a world war that eventually spread from America to Europe, Asia, Africa, and the West Indies. In Europe, the war was called the Seven Years’ War. The British colonists called the conflict the French and Indian War, after the French and their Indian allies.

Early Battles

At first, the British fared poorly in North America. In 1755, a combined British and colonial force did overwhelm two French forts near Nova Scotia. Those troops evicted the French settlers, known as Acadians, and gave...
their farms to New Englanders. But the British army suffered a disastrous defeat when General Edward Braddock marched into a French and Indian ambush near Fort Duquesne. Braddock died, but Washington led a skillful retreat that saved half of that army. Later, Washington recalled the battle in a letter to his mother:

Fort Duquesne. Braddock died, but Washington led a skillful retreat that saved half of that army. Later, Washington recalled the battle in a letter to his mother:

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Primary Source

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British and French Wage War

The painting illustrates General Braddock’s death after the battle at Fort Duquesne. The map shows the theater of war during the French and Indian War. When did the British win Quebec and Montreal?

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The tide of war shifted in 1758 and 1759. The British managed to cut off French shipping to the Americas. As a result, many Indians deserted the French in favor of the better-supplied British. This allowed the British to capture Fort Duquesne. The British also seized the key French fortress of Louisbourg, which guarded the entrance to the St. Lawrence River. That victory cleared the way for General James Wolfe to attack the stronghold of Quebec in 1759. In a daring gamble, Wolfe’s men used the cover of night to scale a cliff and occupy the Plains of Abraham, just outside the city walls. Marching out to attack, Montcalm suffered defeat and death.

In 1760, the British captured Montreal and forced the French governor general to surrender the rest of Canada, including the forts around the Great Lakes. The British had succeeded in their major North American goal.

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The Cajuns

The French settlers evicted from Nova Scotia in 1755 by British troops were known as Acadians. Some of them returned to France, and others relocated to New England. However, 2,000 to 3,000 made a great journey south to an area in the bayous of Louisiana. Their descendents still live in this region southwest of New Orleans—but the name Acadians long ago evolved into “Cajuns.”

Cajun culture has been infused with elements of other cultures in Louisiana: Spanish, German, and African. However, hundreds of years after leaving French Canada, the Cajuns maintain a vibrant French-based culture that has given southwestern Louisiana its unique flavor.

As many as 200,000 Cajuns still speak their unique French dialect. Cajun cuisine has spread worldwide. In addition, lively Cajun music, characterized by the use of the accordion, fiddle, mandolin, and guitar, is still played on radio stations and in live performances called fais do-do: Today, an estimated 500,000 to 700,000 Cajuns still call Louisiana home.

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Connect to Your World

The Cajuns

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The French and Indian War

Instruct

- **Introduce** Explain that in North America, both France and Britain claimed large amounts of territory, and both particularly valued control of the Ohio Valley. Discuss why the Ohio Valley was so important to both sides. Then, ask students to predict the outcome of this competition.

- **Teach** Ask: What incident launched the French and Indian War? (The British were especially angered when the French built Fort Duquesne in the Ohio Valley and then defeated a British force sent to evict them.) Which side won most of the battles early in the war? (The French) Why did the tide turn in favor of the British? (The British blocked French ships from reaching North America. With few goods or supplies, many of their Indian allies deserted the French, leaving French forts more open to British attack. The British then defeated the French at Montreal and Quebec, capturing Canada.) Have students study the major battles of the war on the map on this page. Discuss where each occurred and which side had the victory.

- **Quick Activity** Have students study the illustration of George Washington on the previous page and read the Primary Source quotation on this page. Ask students to compare the image of Washington they have from these sources with the view of Washington with which they may be more familiar. Discuss how Washington’s experience in this war may have affected his service in future conflicts.

Independent Practice

Ask students to study the illustration on this page and write an extended caption that provides a background summary of the war and describes the activity, mood, setting, and participants in the illustration.

Monitor Progress

As students write their captions, circulate to make sure that they are interpreting the illustration reasonably.

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Answer

**Caption** Quebec, 1759; Montreal, 1760
The American Colonies Take Shape

2.

1. Review locations with students.

Map Skills

Answers

their answers are correct.

As students complete their work-

Have students complete

North America 1754–1763.

France was Britain’s main rival in 1754, Resources, p. 19

France was eliminated as a power
in North America, with Canada and
other French territories falling to the
British.

The French and Indian War changed
the colonial boundaries of North America.

1. Locate: (a) Mississippi River, (b) Ohio River,
(c) Appalachian Mountains

2. Regions How did British claims in North
America change from 1754 to 1763?

3. Analyze Information Which nation was
Britain’s main rival in 1754? How might this
have changed in 1763?

Pontiac’s Rebellion
Aftermath of the War

Instruct

- Introduce Remind students that
the Native Americans allied them-

selves with the French against the
British. Ask students to predict how
the Native Americans might react to
the British victory.

- Teach Ask How did the Indians’ relationship with the British change? (The victorious British showed their anger toward the Indians by halting delivery of goods to them and by allowing settlers to take even more of their land.) Have students discuss the goals and outcome of Pontiac’s Rebellion. Then, ask them to read the Primary Source quotation on this page. Ask Why was the Proclamation of 1763 doomed to fail? (Keeping settlers east of the Appalachians was unpopular with people who wanted to move west, and there were too few British troops to enforce it.) Display Color Transparency: Albany Plan of Union. Ask Why was it so difficult for the colonies to unite? (Colonists were used to a certain measure of independence and feared that a union would mean giving up power.) Color Transparencies A-12

- Quick Activity Have students access Web Code ncp-0307 to use the Geography Interactive map and answer the map skills questions.

Independent Practice

Have students complete Outline Map: North America 1754–1763, Teaching Resources, p. 19

Monitor Progress

As students complete their work-

sheets, circulate to make sure that
their answers are correct.

Answers

The French were eliminated as a power in North America, with Canada and other French territories falling to the British.

Map Skills

1. Review locations with students.

2. They increased to include all territory east of the Mississippi River and much of Canada.

3. France was Britain’s main rival in 1754, but by 1763, Spain may have become Britain’s main rival.

Pontiac’s Rebellion

The conquest of Canada was dreadful news to Indians of the interior. No longer could they play the French and the British off against each other. Indeed, the British military commander Lord Jeffrey Amherst quickly cut off delivery of goods to Indians. British settlers flooded onto Indian lands in western Pennsylvania and Virginia.

The Indians affected included Mississaugua, Ottawa, Potawotomi, Ojibwa, Wyandot, Miami, Kickapoo, Mascouten, Delaware, Shawnee, and Seneca. During the spring of 1763, members of these groups surprised and captured most of the British forts in the Ohio River valley and along the Great Lakes. Through the summer and fall, they also raided settlements of western Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. The British called this uprising Pontiac’s Rebellion, after an Ottawa chief prominent in the attack on Detroit.

The Indians’ goal was to weaken the British and lure the French back into North America. But they failed to capture the three largest and strongest British posts: Detroit, Niagara, and Fort Pitt (formerly Fort Duquesne).

During 1764, the Indian attackers ran short of gunpowder, shot, and guns. Without a European supplier, their rebellion fizzled. At the same time, the British government sought a quick end to the expensive war. The Crown blamed Amherst for the crisis, recalling him in disgrace. Thomas Gage, the new commander, recognized that respect for the Indians would cost less than military expeditions against them.

The various Indian nations made peace in return for British promises to restrain the settlers. The British rebuilt their forts, but they also tried to enforce the Proclamation of 1763.

This document ordered colonial settlers to remain east of the Appalachian Mountains:

“...we do hereby require and command all Persons, that are now or shall hereafter settle beyond the Line of Settlement; and all Persons that shall keep, use, or suffer to be kept or used, any Hunting Grounds, on or about such lands; to remove the same, and not to return to such Hunting Grounds, unless with the Consent of the Proprietors of the same, and under the Protection and Security of such a Government of a Military Nature, as shall be provided and established by the General Government of the United States, for the Safety and Defence of the provinces and Settlements aforesaid, and for the Native Americans resident in such parts of the said provinces and Settlements; and we do require the said Persons, and every of them, to remove themselves, and such of their Effects and Possessions as shall be on or about such Hunting Grounds, within the Space of Six Months, from the Time of the Receiving this Proclamation; and that every of them, and every Person that shall keep, use, or suffer to be kept or used, any Hunting Grounds, on or about such lands, after the Expiration of the said Term, be forthwith removed from such Hunting Grounds, and shall not return to them, or any of them, as their Hunting Grounds, unless with the Consent of the Proprietors of the said Hunting Grounds, and under the Protection and Security of such a Government of a Military Nature, as shall be provided and established by the General Government of the United States, for the Safety and Defence of the provinces and Settlements aforesaid, and for the Native Americans resident in such parts of the said provinces and Settlements...” —Proclamation of 1763

Treaty of Paris (1763) Fighting continued in other parts of the world. The British also won major victories in India, the Philippines, West Africa, and the West Indies. In 1763, the Treaty of Paris ended the war triumphantly for the British, who kept Canada, the Great Lakes country, the Ohio River valley, and Florida. They had driven the French from North America. Thereafter, the Mississippi River became the boundary between the British and the Spanish claims in North America.

Checkpoint What was the outcome of the French and Indian War?

Advanced Readers

The Proclamation of 1763 was an important law—and it was big news when it was published in the colonies. Many British colonists hated it. Most Native Americans west of the Appalachians supported it. British leaders thought that the law was a good one, but they could not enforce it.

Have students study the information in the text about the Proclamation. Then, organize students in groups, and have group members use a video recorder to prepare a “You Are There” report, as though they were journalists reporting the news to the colonists. Students may wish to do additional research on the subject. Reports should last no longer than three or four minutes. Encourage students to include interviews with various people commenting on how the law will affect them. The interviews could include settlers who want to move west, American Indians of the Ohio Valley, and both colonial and British officials. Have students share their reports with the class.
Aftermath of the War

The French and Indian War, as well as Pontiac’s Rebellion, revealed the tensions between the British and their colonists. After investing so much blood and money to conquer North America, the British wanted greater control over their colonies. They also had a large war debt, plus the expensive job of guarding the vast territories taken from the French. The British thought that colonists should help pay these costs.

Bickering between the 13 colonies had also complicated the war effort and had angered the British. With British encouragement, colonial delegates had met in 1754 to review the Albany Plan of Union. Drafted by Benjamin Franklin, the plan called on the colonies to unite under British rule and to cooperate with one another in war. It created an American continental assembly that would include delegates from each colony. But, none of the colonies would accept the plan for fear of losing some of their own autonomy. The British also dropped the plan, fearing that 13 united colonies might be too difficult to manage.

During the 1760s, the British acted on their own to impose new taxes and new regulations on colonial trade. Those changes angered colonists who wanted to preserve the sort of loose empire that had, for so long, produced so many benefits at so little cost to them.

Checkpoint What did the Indians involved with Pontiac’s Rebellion hope to accomplish?

The British troops, however, were too few to restrain the thousands of colonists who pushed westward. Troops burned a few log cabins, but the settlers simply rebuilt them. It was clear that the boundary set by the proclamation could not protect the Indians. At the same time, it irritated the colonists, who resented efforts to limit their expansion.

Checkpoint What was the effect of the French and Indian War and Pontiac’s Rebellion on the relationship between the colonies and Great Britain?