

# The French and Indian War

## Essential Question

How did the outcome of the French and Indian War determine who controlled North America?

## Reading Guide

### Content Vocabulary

alliance (p. 109)    speculator (p. 112)

### Academic Vocabulary

prospect (p. 110)

### Key People and Events

General Edward Braddock (p. 109)

Seven Years' War (p. 110)

William Pitt (p. 110)

Jeffrey Amherst (p. 111)

James Wolfe (p. 111)

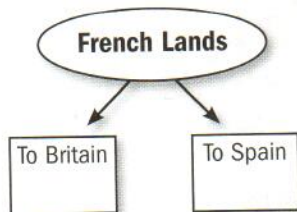
Treaty of Paris (p. 111)

Pontiac's War (p. 112)

Proclamation of 1763 (p. 112)

### Reading Strategy

**Taking Notes** As you read, use a diagram like the one below to list the lands that France lost when the Treaty of Paris of 1763 was signed.



## American Diary

Commanded by General James Wolfe, about 1,800 British troops landed "on the North Shore [of Quebec] . . . an Hour before Day Break." To get in position to attack, the soldiers had to climb a steep cliff. Scrambling up the slope, the British soldiers ran into "a little Firing" from French guards. They continued to climb until they "gained the top of the [cliff]." By the time the sun rose over Quebec, British and French soldiers were prepared to battle on the Plains of Abraham outside the city.

—from a letter by General George Townshend

In 1759 British troops climbed steep cliffs in order to attack the French stronghold of Quebec.

## The British Take Action

**Main Idea** William Pitt helped turn the tide of the French and Indian War to the colonists' favor.

**History and You** Has a friend ever given you advice that you wished you had followed? Read to learn why one British general was defeated because of his failure to accept advice.

The Battle of Quebec, fought in 1759, was a deciding moment in the conflict between Britain and France. That conflict was known as the French and Indian War. This war raged in North America through the late 1750s and early 1760s. The French and Indian War was part of a larger struggle between the British and the French. That struggle involved, or included, control of world trade and power on the seas.

In 1754 the governor of Massachusetts made an announcement to the colonial assembly. He told them that the French were on the way to "making themselves masters of this Continent."

The French were building well-armed forts throughout the Great Lakes region and the Ohio River valley. Their network of **alliances**,

or unions, with Native Americans allowed the French to control large areas of land, stretching from the St. Lawrence River in Canada all the way south to New Orleans. The French and their Native American allies seemed to be winning control of the American frontier. The final showdown was about to begin.

During the early stages of the French and Indian War, the British colonists fought the French and the Native Americans with little help from Britain. In 1754, however, the government in London decided to intervene in the conflict. It was alarmed by the new forts the French were building and by Washington's defeat at Fort Necessity. In the fall of 1754, Great Britain appointed **General Edward Braddock** commander in chief of the British forces in America. Braddock's mission was to drive the French forces from the Ohio Valley region.

### Braddock Marches to Duquesne

In June 1755, Braddock started out from Virginia with about 1,400 red-coated British soldiers and a smaller force of blue-coated colonial militia. George Washington served as an aide to Braddock during the campaign.

### Primary Source

### Two Heroes: Wolfe and Montcalm

Known as outstanding commanders, both the British General Wolfe and the French General Montcalm lost their lives in the Battle of Quebec. During the fighting, Wolfe was shot in the chest and was "carried off wounded to the rear of the front line." He reportedly heard cries of "they [the French] run." Told that the French lines had broken, Wolfe died peacefully, satisfied that the British had won. Montcalm also was wounded in battle. As he lay in bed, Montcalm asked how long he had to live. When told "about a dozen hours," the French general said, "So much the better. . . . I am happy I shall not live to see the surrender of Quebec."

—from *Historical Journal of the Campaigns in North America*

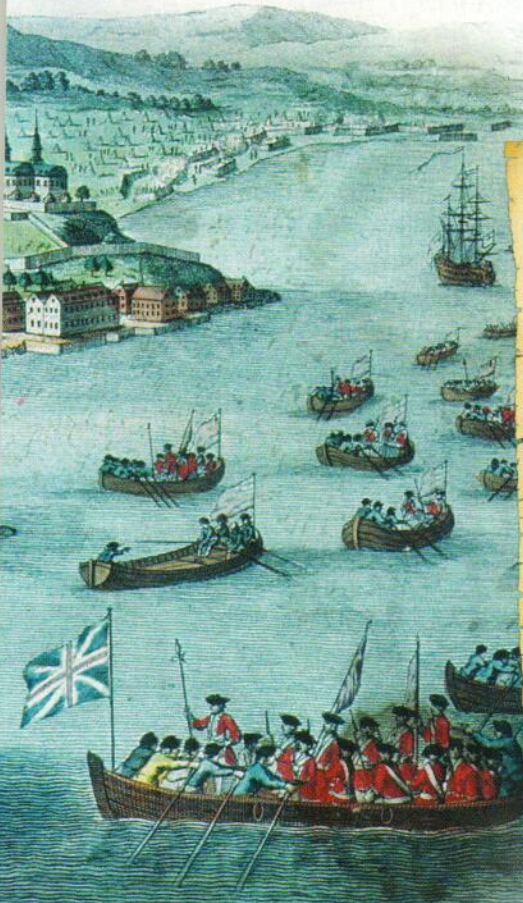
General James Wolfe ▼



◀ Marquis de Montcalm

### Critical Thinking

**Making Generalizations** Why are Wolfe and Montcalm considered heroes? What qualities do you think make a person a hero?



On the march to Fort Duquesne, Washington reported that Braddock:

**PRIMARY SOURCE**

"[halted] to level every mole hill, and to erect bridges over every brook, by which means we were four days in getting twelve miles."

—from *Life of Washington*

Washington told Braddock that his army's style of marching was not well suited to fighting on the frontier. Lined up in columns and rows wearing bright-colored uniforms, the troops became easy targets. Braddock ignored Washington's advice.

Native Americans and French troops ambushed the British on July 9. The British were confused and frightened. They could not even see their attackers, who were hidden in the forest and shooting at them from behind trees. Braddock was killed. Defeated, the British lost nearly 1,000 men. Washington led the survivors back to Virginia.

**Britain Declares War on France**

The fighting in America helped start a new war in Europe. This war was known as the **Seven Years' War**. After arranging an alliance with Prussia, Britain declared war on France in 1756. Prussia fought France and its allies in Europe. Britain fought France in the Caribbean, India, and North America.

Early in the war, French troops captured several British forts, and their Native American allies began raiding frontier farms from New York to Pennsylvania. They killed settlers, burned farmhouses and crops, and drove many families back toward the coast. French forces from Canada captured British forts at Lake Ontario and at Lake George.

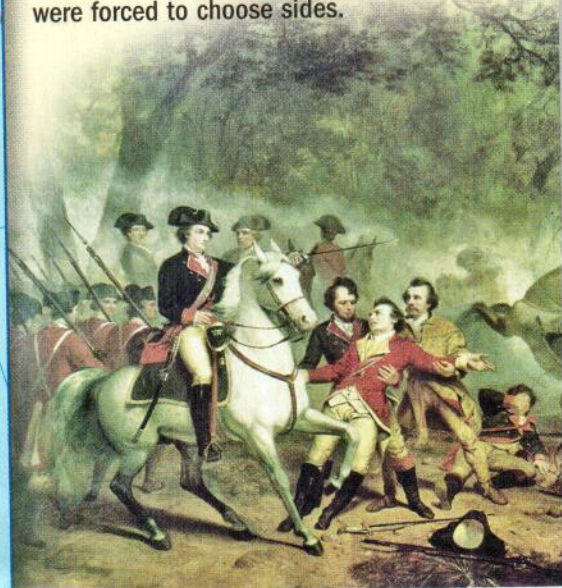
**Pitt Takes Charge**

Great Britain's **prospects**, or chances for success, in America improved after **William Pitt** came to power. Pitt served as secretary of state and then as prime minister of Great Britain and was a great military planner.

**The French and Indian War, 1754-1763**



**A War for North America** During the French and Indian War, Great Britain and France each fought for control of the North American continent. Native American leaders, who had long played the European rivals against each other, were forced to choose sides.




To avoid arguments from the colonists about the cost of the war, Pitt decided that Great Britain would pay for the war supplies—no matter the cost. Pitt ran up an enormous debt. After the war the British raised the colonists' taxes to help pay this debt. Pitt had only delayed the moment when the colonists had to pay their share of the bill.

Pitt wanted more than just a clear path to the Western territories. He also intended to conquer French Canada. He sent British troops to North America under commanders **Jeffrey Amherst** and **James Wolfe**. In 1758 a British assault recaptured the fortress at Louisbourg. That same year a group of New Englanders, led by British officers, captured Fort Frontenac at Lake Ontario. Still another British force took Fort Duquesne in Pennsylvania, which was renamed Fort Pitt.

 **Reading Check** **Describing** Why was William Pitt successful at managing the war for Britain?

*"[Swords] and hatchets playing on every quarter with much . . . blood but our New Hampshire forces being fresh & courageous and the Enemy tired and much discouraged with the Defeat they met with, retreated and made their escape toward a Creek. . . . The day after ye battle three Frenchmen were taken up by the Guard of Fort Lymon who upon examination declared that their Army was entirely [defeated]."*

—Colonist Robert Moses,  
diary entry, 1755

 Mohawk chief Joseph Brant was an important British ally.

### Map Skills

**Region** Which country controlled the territory around the Great Lakes?

**Maps in Motion** See StudentWorks™ Plus or [glencoe.com](http://glencoe.com).

## The Fall of New France

**Main Idea** The fall of Quebec and Montreal ended the French and Indian War in North America.

**History and You** What factors lead to success or failure in battle? Read to learn how the British defeated the French in the French and Indian War.

**T**he British had so many victories in 1759 that people said the church bells of London wore thin with joyous ringing. The greatest victory of the war, though, took place in the heart of New France.


### The Battle of Quebec

Quebec was the capital of New France and was located on top of a cliff overlooking the St. Lawrence River. Quebec was thought to be impossible to attack. In September 1759, British general James Wolfe's scouts spotted a poorly guarded path along the back of the cliff. During the night, Wolfe's soldiers overwhelmed the French guards and scrambled up the path. The British troops then surprised and defeated the French army on a field called the Plains of Abraham.

### The Treaty of Paris

The fall of Quebec and General Amherst's capture of Montreal the following year brought an end to the fighting in North America. The **Treaty of Paris** of 1763 forced France to give Canada and most of its lands east of the Mississippi River to Great Britain. Great Britain also received Florida from France's ally, Spain. Spain acquired French lands west of the Mississippi River—the Louisiana Territory—as well as the port of New Orleans.

The Treaty of Paris marked the end of France as a power in North America. The continent was now divided between Great Britain and Spain.

 **Reading Check** **Determining Cause and Effect** What happened to France's territory as a result of its defeat in the war?

## Trouble on the Frontier

**Main Idea** Continued conflict between Native Americans and British settlers led to the Proclamation of 1763.

**History and You** How would you feel if a CD you ordered and paid for never arrived? Read to learn why some land investors were furious about the Proclamation of 1763.

The French loss dealt a blow to the Native Americans of the Ohio River valley. They had lost their French allies and trading partners. The British raised the prices of their goods and, unlike the French, refused to pay the Native Americans for the use of their land. Worst of all, more British settlers began moving west onto Native American lands.

### Pontiac's War

Pontiac, chief of an Ottawa village near Detroit, regarded British settlers as a threat to his people's way of life. Just as Benjamin Franklin tried to bring the colonies together with his Albany Plan, Pontiac wanted Native American groups to unite to fight the British.

In the spring of 1763, Pontiac gathered forces and captured the British fort at Detroit and other British outposts. That summer, Native Americans killed settlers along the Pennsylvania and Virginia frontiers during **Pontiac's War**. The war finally ended in August 1765 after the British defeated Pontiac's allies. Pontiac signed a peace treaty, and the British pardoned him.

### The Proclamation of 1763

To prevent more fighting, Britain called a halt to the settlers' westward expansion. The **Proclamation of 1763** set the Appalachian Mountains as the temporary western boundary for the colonies. The proclamation especially angered those who owned shares in land companies. These **speculators**, or investors, had already bought land west of the mountains. They were furious that Britain ignored their land claims. More conflicts would soon arise between Britain and the colonists.

 **Reading Check** **Examining** Why were some colonists angered by the Proclamation of 1763?

## Section 4 Review

**History ONLINE**  
Study Central™ To review this section, go to [glencoe.com](http://glencoe.com).

### Vocabulary

- Using complete sentences, define the following terms:  
*alliance, prospect, speculator.*

### Main Ideas

- Identifying** Before Pitt took charge, what advantages did the French have in North America?
- Summarizing** What effect did the Treaty of Paris have on France?
- Discussing** Why did Pontiac want the Native Americans to join forces?

### Critical Thinking

- Identifying Problems and Solutions** Use a chart like the one below to list the problems of General Braddock's army. List actions he could have taken that might have brought about France's defeat.

Problem	Solution
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- Creative Writing** Write a conversation between two French fur trappers that describes how they might have felt about the Treaty of Paris.

- Answer the Essential Question**  
How did the outcome of the French and Indian War determine who controlled North America?