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The Seven Years War – 1756-1763

The French and the British had a long history of conflict, even before they began to fight over colonizing North America. Both the British and the French wanted to expand their empires and sometimes ended up fighting over the same “new territory.” The French were mostly Roman Catholic and the British were primarily Protestant. This religious difference gave the countries different values, customs, and lifestyles. Over time, each side became distrustful of the other’s actions and motives.

A Global War

The Seven Years War was a global conflict that involved the major European powers of the time. France, Austria, and Russia were on one side, and Great Britain and Prussia were on the other. Fighting took place throughout Europe as well as in North America and India. During this time, the struggle between Britain and France to colonize North America intensified.

Local Trouble

Trouble started brewing in the Ohio Valley in 1754 when the two sides clashed over ownership of the same territory. France had explored the Ohio Valley and traded furs there but the British were moving in settlers and claiming the land as theirs. The French built a chain of forts to protect the fur trade. The forts were on the same land that the British were claiming. This created a lot of tension and confusion.



French Victories

In 1755, both France and Britain sent troops to North America to try to sort out the situation. General Braddock led a force of British soldiers that tried to capture some of the French forts. They did not have much success. The French and their First Nations allies defeated the British each time they attacked. For the next couple of years, the French forces led by Louis-Joseph de Montcalm began capturing British forts. They captured Fort Oswego on Lake Ontario and Fort William Henry on the Richelieu River. Things were not going well for the British.



Montcalm celebrating victory

The Seven Years War – 1756-1763 (continued)

Historic
Event



The Defeat of Louisbourg

The tide began to turn for the British when they were able to capture Fort Duquesne from the French. With this loss, the French lost the support of their First Nations allies. On July 26, 1758, the British, led by General James Wolfe, claimed a huge victory when they captured the fortress of Louisbourg. The fortress was under constant cannon fire for seven weeks. As supplies were running out and morale was running low, Wolfe landed his troops. The fortress was completely destroyed. This defeat left the St. Lawrence River undefended and open to British invasion.



Siege of Louisbourg



Louisbourg defeated

The Campaign to Capture Québec

In the spring of 1759, General Wolfe sailed up the St. Lawrence River with over a hundred and fifty ships and thousands of British soldiers. He was prepared to capture Québec, which was the heart of New France. No French reinforcements were able to get through to help Montcalm and his troops defend the city. Wolfe had camps on the south shore across from Québec at Point Levi and on the north shore down river from Québec at Ile d'Orleans. From these positions his cannons bombarded the city for two months. He caused massive damage but Québec held out.



Wolfe



Montcalm



Siege of Québec

The Seven Years War – 1756-1763 (continued)

Historic
Event



Battle of the Plains of Abraham

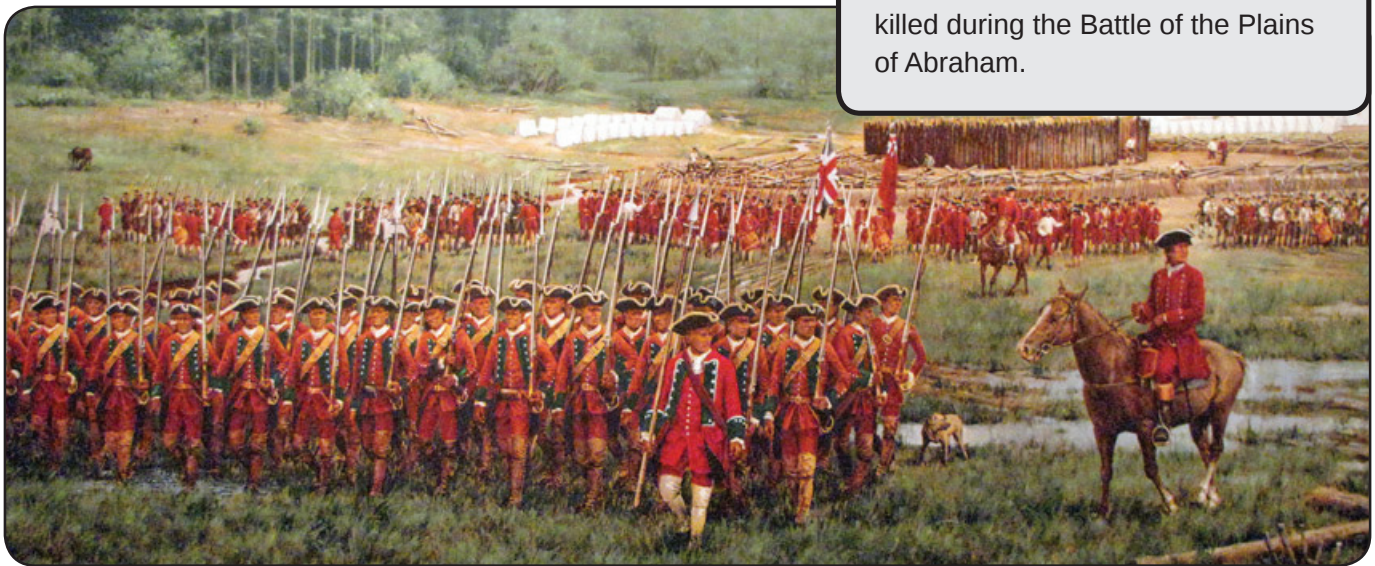
Wolfe was frustrated and knew he had to somehow force Québec to surrender. But that would not be an easy task. The city was difficult to get to and was well protected. It was perched on the top of steep cliffs that rose straight up from the river and was surrounded by high stone walls. Wolfe decided to take a risk and attack the city from the west. On September 12, in the dark of night, he led about 5,000 troops up the Anse-au-Foulon, a steep and narrow path the French used to get down to the river.

The next morning, on September 13, 1759, Wolfe and his troops were in battle formation on the Plains of Abraham, a large open field in front of the city. Montcalm made a quick decision to attack the British troops, but his troops were mostly inexperienced French militia and were no match for the well-trained British soldiers. In just over a half an hour, the French were defeated.

The governor of Québec, the Marquis de Vaudreuil, surrendered. Québec was now under British control. In the terms of surrender Vaudreuil made some demands to protect the French citizens. Most importantly, the Roman Catholic religion was allowed to continue without interference and the people of Québec were able to continue their fur trading enterprise.

FAST FACT

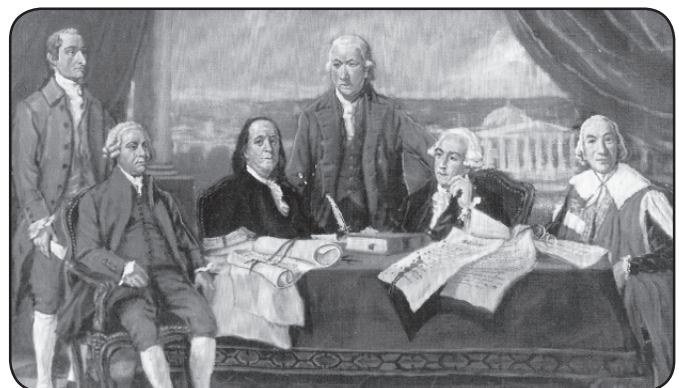
Both Wolfe and Montcalm were killed during the Battle of the Plains of Abraham.



Montcalm's troops prepare for battle on the Plains of Abraham

The Treaty of Paris – 1763

When France and Britain signed the Treaty of Paris in 1763, the Seven Years War was officially over. The agreement signaled the end of New France. The territory was not returned to the French. New France officially became Québec, a British colony.



The Seven Years War

Tell whether the following statements are true or false. Write T for true or F for false.

1. The French and the British were the only countries involved in the Seven Years War. _____
2. In 1755, General Braddock successfully captured some of the French forts. _____
3. The French lost the support of their First Nations allies when Fort Duquesne was captured. _____
4. General Wolfe was not successful in capturing Québec. _____
5. The British claimed a huge victory when they captured the fortress of Louisbourg. _____
6. Montcalm and Wolfe fought each other on the Plains of Abraham. _____

Answer the following questions.

7. What happened after the signing of the Treaty of Paris?

8. How long did General Wolfe's cannons bombard the city of Québec?

9. What role did the Ohio Valley play in the conflict between the French and the British?

Name _____

Activity
Page



The Seven Years War

Answer the following questions with a complete sentence.

1. Why did the French and the British have such a long history of conflict?

2. Where else did fighting take place besides North America?

3. Why was the capture of Louisbourg an important event in the war?

4. Who captured Fort Oswego and Fort William Henry during the war?

5. What was the Plains of Abraham?

6. How long did it take for the Battle of the Plains of Abraham to be over?



Name _____



The Seven Years War 1756–1763

Use the information pages, library resources, and the internet to help you complete your answers.

1. a) Explain in your own words the meaning of the term “global war”.

- b) Is our world currently experiencing a “global war”? Give reasons for your opinion.

2. Look at the pictures of soldiers in different stages of battle. Would it be harder to be a soldier in those times or is it harder today? Support your answer with examples.

3. a) Explain the circumstances that led to the action of France and Britain sending troops to North America.

- b) Do you think this action was justified? Give reasons for your answer.

- c) What steps might have been taken prior to sending in the troops?



Name _____



The Seven Years War 1756–1763 (continued)

Use the information pages, library resources, and the internet to help you complete your answers.

4. a) What are some factors that led to the capture of Québec by General Wolfe?

- b) What concessions did Vaudreuil demand for the French people?

5. Name two outcomes of the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1763.

6. “The French and the British had a long history of conflict even before they began to fight over colonizing North America”. In your opinion, does conflict exist in present-day relations between the French and the English in Canada? Give examples to support your opinion.



New France and British North America 1713-1800 Curriculum Map

Help your students working below grade level with Canadian History. Topics are presented in a clear, concise manner, which makes the information accessible to struggling learners.

There are two levels of questions for each topic. Illustrations, maps, and diagrams visually enhance each topic and provide support for visual learners. Developed to make history curriculum accessible to students at multiple skill levels and with various learning styles.

Activities will help students analyze aspects of the lives of various groups in Canada between 1713 and 1800, and compare them to the lives of people in present-day Canada.

Exercises provided to use the historical inquiry process to investigate perspectives of different groups on some significant events, developments, and/or issues related to the shift in power in colonial Canada from France to Britain.

Students will be able to describe various significant events, developments, and people in Canada between 1713 and 1800, and explain their impact.

The content covers key topics required for seventh grade history and supports the updated 2013 Ontario Curriculum: History Grade 7.

Plus:

- *48 Master the Facts game cards review content learned.*
- *Answer Key for All Lessons*
- *Unit Learning Expectations*
- *Teacher Notes*
- *Assessments*

LESSON TOPICS

First Nations People

Lesson 1 - The First People of North America

Lesson 2 - The Algonquians Google Slides and Printables

Lesson 3 - Haudenosaunee – Six Nations Google Slides and Printables

Lesson 4 - The Huron Google Slides and Printables

People of New France and Historic Events

Lesson 5 - Jacques Cartier (1491 – 1557) Google Slides and Printable

Lesson 6 - Samuel de Champlain (1567 – 1635) Google Slides and Printable

Lesson 7 - Territory of New France & Missionaries

Lesson 8 - The Acadians/Expulsion of the Acadians Google Slides and Printable

Lesson 9 - The Acadians/Expulsion of the Acadians Google Slides and Printable

Lesson 10 - Métis Google Slides and Printable

Lesson 11 - Seigneurs and Habitants Google Slides and Printable

Lesson 12 - Tradesman and Merchants

Lesson 13 - The Government of New France Google Slides and Printable

Lesson 14 - The Seven Years War (1756 – 1763) Google Slides and Printable

Lesson 15 - Creation of the British Colony of Québec Google Slides and Printable

Lesson 16 - The American Revolution Google Slides and Printable

Lesson 17 - Loyalist Migration Google Slides and Printable

Lesson 18 - Boston King

Lesson 19 - Joseph and Mary Brant Google Slides and Printable

Lesson 20 - Loyalists Arrive in Nova Scotia Google Slides and Printable

Lesson 21 - Loyalists in Québec and Upper Canada Google Slides and Printable

Lesson 22 - John Graves Simcoe (1752 – 1806)

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