

The Seven Years War



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 territories." The French were mostly Roman Catholic and the British were primarily Protestant. They had different values, customs, and lifestyles, which led to different actions and motives.

A Global War

The Seven Years War was a global conflict between the major European powers of the time. Britain and France were on one side, and Spain, Prussia, and Russia were on the other. Fighting took place in Europe, North America, and India. During the war, the struggle between Britain and France to control North America intensified.

Local Trouble

Trouble started brewing in the Ohio Valley. Both France and Britain were moving in settlers and claiming the land. The French were protecting the fur trade. The forts were on the border, which created a lot of tension and confusion.

French Victories

In 1755, both France and Britain sent troops to America to try to sort out the situation. General Braddock led a force of British soldiers 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 fought. For the next couple of years, the French and British fought. Louis-Joseph de Montcalm began capturing British forts. They captured Fort Oswego on Lake Ontario and Fort William Henry on the Richelieu River. The French were not going well for the British.

The Seven Years War 1756-1763 (cont.)

The Defeat of Louisbourg

The tide began to turn for the British when the French lost the fortress of Louisbourg. The British, led by General James Wolfe, captured the fortress. The fortress was under attack, running out of food and morale was running low. This defeat left the St. Lawrence River open to British ships.



Battle of Louisbourg

The Campaign to Capture Québec

In the spring of 1758, General Wolfe sailed fifty ships and thousands of British soldiers down the St. Lawrence River to the heart of New France. No French reinforcements arrived. His troops defended the city. Wolfe had cannons on the north shore down river from the city. The cannons bombarded the city for two months.



The Seven Years War 1756-1763 (cont.)

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 a steep cliff 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, 1758, 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.



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.



SOCIAL STUDIES LESSON

Grade 7

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

This product is a Google Slides presentation with interactive text boxes that students can fill out digitally! If you don't already have a free Google account, you will need to do that before downloading this digital resource. Each student will also need their own account to work on the slides digitally.

You will...

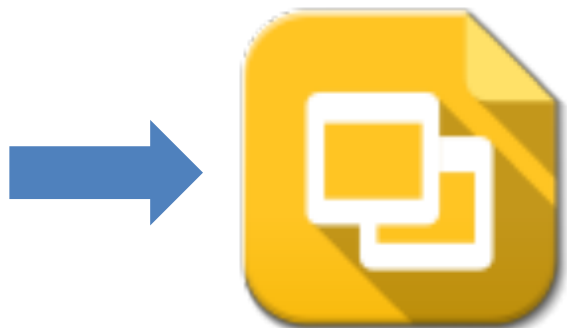
- **Save a copy** of the file on your own Google Drive so you can edit the copy. When you download the file, the original file is set to "View Only." **You must make a copy to edit & share with your students.**
- When you're ready for your students to complete the assignment, you will share your downloaded copy with your students. Make sure that when you share the file, **you only allow viewing capability (not editing or commenting).**
- If you want to only share one slide at a time, open your saved copy of the file, select the slide you want to share, right-click on the slide in the view panel on the left side, select copy. Then open a new empty Google Slides presentation and paste the copied slide into the new file. If your students need more than one slide for their writing assignment, direct them to duplicate the slide.

Students will...

- When your students begin working on the assignment, instruct your students to **make a copy of the file.** This is the copy that they will edit. I would recommend having a common filename that each student should use with their name or student ID.
- When they complete the assignment, they will need to then share their new copy with you so that you will have access to their writing. If you're familiar with Google Classroom, they can simply submit the file there.

Product Link:

Click on the icon to view your purchased product. When you open the file, please **don't "request access"** to this file. You DO need to save a copy of the file to your own google drive so you can edit it and share with your students.



This lesson was taken from “New France & British North America” Grade 7.

This history series was developed to make history curriculum accessible to students at multiple skill levels and with various learning styles.

There are two levels of questions for each topic. The questions on the Activity Pages test basic comprehension and will help to assess whether students have “mastered the facts.” Once it has been determined that students have a good basic understanding of the information, they can move on to the Think About It question pages. These pages give students an opportunity for critical thinking as they compare life in Canada during different time periods and contrast that life with present day society. A variety of applications can be used to express their opinions and ideas.

Sprinkled throughout this book are **Word Power** and **Fast Fact** boxes. The Word Power boxes provide definitions of words that may not be familiar to students. The Fast Fact boxes feature an interesting fact related to the content on the page.

The reading passages and question pages for each topic form a complete lesson that can be integrated into your existing history curriculum. The material allows for flexibility and can be used in whatever way best supports your curriculum needs.

Answers



The Seven Years War

1. F 2. F 3. T 4. F 5. T 6. T

7. The war was over and it was the end of New France. New France became Québec, a British colony.

8. two months

9. The French and British clashed over ownership of the same land in the Ohio Valley which caused a lot of tension and confusion.

1. They both wanted to expand their empires and ended up fighting over the same new territory.

2. Fighting took place throughout Europe and India.

3. The capture of Louisbourg left the St. Lawrence River undefended and open to invasion.

4. Louis Joseph de Montcalm captured Fort Oswego and William Henry.

5. The Plains of Abraham was a large open field in front of city of Québec.

6. It took just over half an hour for the French to be defeated on the Plains of Abraham.



The Seven Years War 1756 - 1763

1. a) “global war” involves numerous world powers and affects all aspects of life.
b) Answers will vary.

2. Consider: weapons, military training, landscape, medical aid for wounded, etc.

3. a) French and British both claimed ownership of the Ohio Valley. The French built forts on British-claimed land.
b) Answers will vary.

c) Possibles: negotiations, creation of agreed-upon boundaries.

4. a) Wolfe led a risky attack from the Plains of Abraham (right in front of the city). French troops were inexperienced and poorly trained.

b) The Catholic religion was to continue without interference. People of Québec could continue fur trading business.

5. 1) the end of the Seven Years War 2) New France became Québec, a British colony.

6. Answers will vary.





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

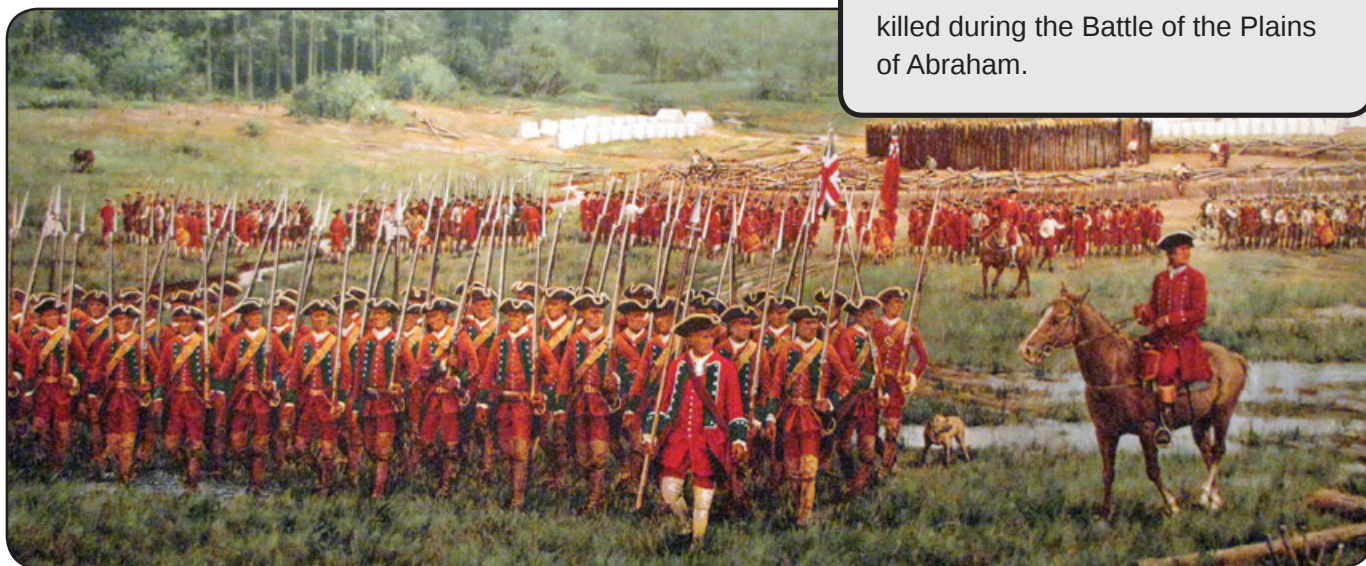
Wolfe was frustrated and knew he had to somehow force Québec to surrender. But that would not be an easy task. The city was difficult to get to and was well protected. It was perched on the top of steep cliffs that rose straight up from the river and was surrounded by high stone walls. Wolfe decided 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

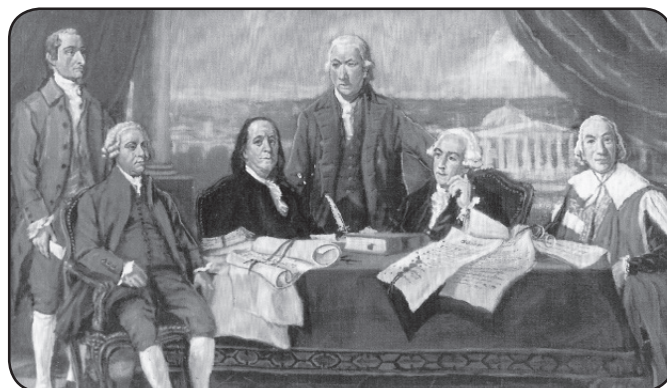
Both Wolfe and Montcalm were killed during the Battle of the Plains of Abraham.



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 _____



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.

