



# THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR: CAUSES AND OUTCOME

The French and Indian War was a conflict over control of North America from 1754 to 1763 CE. Read the text below to learn more about the causes and outcomes of the war. Then complete the tables on page 2.

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>CAUSES</b></p>	<p>Native American nations had lived in North America for thousands of years before Europeans arrived. In the mid-1700s, Great Britain, France, and other European powers claimed control over sections of the continent as part of their new empires. Great Britain set up thirteen colonies on the Atlantic coast and settled many British colonists there. France also claimed territory but sent few colonists. The French were focused on controlling trade with Native peoples in North America, not on settling large permanent populations there. French territory was farther north and farther inland.</p> <p>Britain wanted to expand westward and gain control of more territory for colonists, particularly in the Ohio River Valley. British colonists were also eager to gain more farmland. However, British expansion threatened French trading interests along the Ohio River.</p> <p>Competition for land caused a conflict to erupt in 1754. The French built a fort on territory claimed by Britain, and the British responded by demanding that the French give up the fort. Neither side backed down, and the French and Indian War began.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>North America in 1754</b></p>  <p>This map shows the territorial claims in 1754. British territory (orange) covers the eastern seaboard and extends westward to the Ohio River. French territory (light blue) covers the interior of the continent, including the Ohio River Valley. The Atlantic Ocean is labeled to the east.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>OUTCOME</b></p>	<p>The war started badly for the British. Most Native American nations sided with France; the French goal of controlling trade was less threatening than Britain's desire for land to settle colonists. Without many local allies, the British lost the first several battles of the war. Britain eventually overwhelmed its enemies by outspending them and defeated France and its Native American allies. The French surrendered in 1763, and the war ended.</p> <p>France lost its claim to nearly all its territory in North America. Britain's victory more than doubled the size of its North American empire. This benefited British colonists by opening land for settlement. The British also seized land from Native American nations, especially those that fought on the French side, and British settlers pushed Native peoples farther and farther west.</p> <p>The French and Indian War also changed the relationship between Britain and its colonies. While the victory brought Britain more land, huge war expenses sent the country deep into debt. Britain responded by raising taxes on its colonies in North America. The colonists were outraged, setting the stage for future conflict.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>North America in 1763</b></p>  <p>This map shows the territorial claims in 1763. British territory (orange) now covers almost the entire eastern and central part of North America, from the Atlantic coast to the Rocky Mountains. French territory (light blue) is reduced to a small area in the southwest. The Ohio River and Atlantic Ocean are labeled.</p>

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Read the text on page 1 to learn more about the causes and outcomes of the war. Then complete the tables in Parts 1 and 2 below.

**PART 1.** Explain each participant's motivations in the French and Indian War.

FRANCE	
GREAT BRITAIN	
THE THIRTEEN COLONIES	
NATIVE AMERICAN NATIONS	

**PART 2.** Explain what each participant gained or lost from the French and Indian War's outcome.

FRANCE	
GREAT BRITAIN	
THE THIRTEEN COLONIES	
NATIVE AMERICAN NATIONS	

### BONUS QUESTION:

Who do you think gained the most from the French and Indian War? Who lost the most? Why?