WHAT TO KNOW
How did the French and Indian War affect the Ohio Valley?

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PEOPLE
George Washington
Edward Braddock
Pontiac
King George III

PLACES
Ohio Valley
Fort Duquesne
Fort Necessity

CAUSE AND EFFECT

You’re a French fur trader. You’ve paddled along the Ohio River to trade in a Native American village. You have traded there many times. Today, however, the Native Americans tell you that there are no furs to trade. A British trader visited the village yesterday. He traded for all the good furs!
The Ohio Valley

By the early 1700s, Britain and France both claimed lands in the Ohio Valley region. The Ohio Valley stretches about 1,000 miles along the Ohio River, from the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi River. This region lay between the French and British claims in North America.

Conflicts in the Ohio Valley

French traders made large profits in the Ohio Valley. They did so by trading with Native Americans for furs. A profit is money left over after a business pays its costs. Like the French, British traders made profits from their trade with Native Americans in the Ohio Valley. The British colonies were also growing during this time. Colonists there wanted lands in the Ohio Valley to farm and settle.

Native Americans in the Ohio Valley traded furs for European goods such as cloth, iron tools, and guns. Over time, Native Americans came to depend on these goods.

Some Native Americans traded with both the French and the British. Others traded with one group only. As conflicts in the Ohio Valley grew, many Native Americans were forced to choose sides. Soon they would also have to decide whether to stay in the Ohio Valley or flee to escape war.

Reading Check: Cause and Effect

What caused conflicts in the Ohio Valley?
War Breaks Out

In the early 1750s, the French began building forts in the eastern Ohio Valley. They also sent soldiers to drive the British out of the region. The British viewed this as an act of war.

The First Battle

In 1754, the British sent 150 soldiers to the Ohio Valley. They were led by George Washington, a young officer from the British colony of Virginia.

The Virginians planned to attack a French fort named Fort Duquesne (doo-KAYN). On the way, they defeated a small group of French soldiers and their Native American allies. Allies are people or groups that join together for a common cause.

Washington feared a larger attack. The Virginians quickly built a fort, which they called Fort Necessity. Soon a larger French force did attack. Washington was forced to give up. The French allowed the Virginians to leave. These events marked the start of the French and Indian War.

By 1756, the French and Indian War had become part of a larger conflict known as the Seven Years’ War. The French and the British began fighting each other in Europe and Asia as well as in North America.
Forming Alliances

Most Native Americans who stayed in the Ohio Valley formed alliances with the French or the British. An alliance is a formal agreement among groups or individuals.

Many of the Algonquian-speaking tribes formed alliances with the French. These tribes feared that the British colonists would drive them from their lands. They also wanted to fight against their enemies, the Iroquois. The Iroquois had long been allies of the British.

Early Defeats for Britain

In April 1755, British General Edward Braddock led 1,800 soldiers to attack Fort Duquesne. Among the soldiers was George Washington. The British soon met the French.

Like most European soldiers, the British were trained to fight in open fields. They soon learned that the French soldiers fought like their Native American allies. They hid in the forests and fired from behind trees and rocks.

This way of fighting took the British by surprise, and General Braddock was killed in the battle. Washington later wrote of the attack that the British soldiers “were struck with such panic that they . . . broke and ran as sheep pursued [chased] by dogs.”

The Fall of New France

Britain sent more soldiers to the colonies. By 1758, they began winning the war. The British captured several French forts. They also defeated the French at Quebec and Montreal.

Even though the Spanish joined the French near the end of the war, the British were too strong. In 1763, the French surrendered and signed the Treaty of Paris. A treaty is an agreement between nations about peace, trade, or other matters.

Why did many Algonquian-speaking tribes form alliances with the French?
A Troubled Frontier

As a result of the Treaty of Paris, the French lost nearly all their lands in North America. France gave its land east of the Mississippi River to Britain. Spain gave Florida to Britain but gained all French lands west of the Mississippi River.

British colonists were eager to settle the new lands. Many moved west into the frontier, or the lands beyond settled areas. The new settlers angered Native Americans. Some, like the Iroquois, had helped the British in the war. They had hoped the British would protect their lands.

The Proclamation of 1763

In 1763, an Ottawa chief named Pontiac united tribes in the Ohio Valley region. The tribes attacked British settlements and forts. These attacks became known as Pontiac’s Rebellion. A rebellion is a fight against a government.

Britain’s King George III tried to end the fighting between the Native Americans and colonists. In 1763, he made a proclamation, or public announcement. The Proclamation of 1763 said that all lands west of the Appalachian Mountains belonged to the Native Americans. Settlers there were told to leave.
Most colonists ignored the king’s proclamation. Many more moved west and settled there. As a result, conflicts between the Native Americans and the settlers continued.

**Paying for the War**

After the war, British leaders looked carefully at their plan for spending money. They needed more money to pay for the war. They also needed money to defend and control their North American lands. The British government decided that the colonists should help pay these costs.

Beginning in 1764, the British government ordered the colonists to pay more taxes. A **tax** is money a government collects from citizens. Many colonists grew angry with the British government for raising taxes.

**READING CHECK**

**CAUSE AND EFFECT**

Why did the colonists have to pay more taxes?

**Summary**

European competition in North America led to the French and Indian War. Britain defeated France and gained new lands. To stop conflicts with Native Americans, the British tried to keep colonists from settling the frontier. To help pay for the war, the colonists had to pay more taxes.

**REVIEW**

1. **WHAT TO KNOW** How did the French and Indian War affect the Ohio Valley?
2. **VOCABULARY** Use the term **alliance** in a sentence about Native Americans during the French and Indian War.
3. **GEOGRAPHY** What events caused the French and Indian War?
4. **CRITICAL THINKING** Why do you think the French soldiers chose to fight in the same way as their Native American allies?
5. **WRITE A NEWSPAPER STORY** Imagine you are a news reporter in 1763. Write a story describing how colonists feel about the Proclamation of 1763.
6. **CAUSE AND EFFECT** On a separate sheet of paper, copy and complete the graphic organizer below.