

Station 1

In the U.S., the Seven Years' War is often called the French and Indian War. It had profound effects on Native Americans, particularly those in the Ohio River and the Mississippi River regions. Many of these tribes actively participated in the war and chose sides. In New York, the Iroquois Confederacy was able to make treaties with both the French and the English and remained mostly independent from Europeans.

William Johnson was named Superintendent of Indian Affairs in 1755. In this role, he acted as an ambassador with Native Americans in the colonies to encourage them to support the British and fight the French. He gained a lot of experience for this position while he was a merchant and this business gave Johnson the opportunity to understand the Indians. It was his special relationship with the Six Nations, and specifically with the Mohawks of the Iroquois Confederacy, that led him into the political and military arenas, and was to influence his subsequent ideas of how the colonies should manage the whole question of trade and expansion. As Superintendent of Indian Affairs, he had full powers to trade with the Iroquois Confederacy in the British interest.

With the growing tensions between the French and the British, the role of the Indian tribes was therefore a vital one in any conflict between the two antagonists. The long standing feud between them meant that the support of the Indians was a key element to a victory. In 1701 the Five Nations (later six), that is the Iroquois Confederacy (Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas and Senecas), had made peace with the French at Montreal, and remained neutral. In subsequent decades, attempts by the British to win over the Indians had been countered by the French.



In 1720 the French came across Lake Ontario and built a trading post at Niagara. To counter this threat the British built a post at Oswego in 1727. Any war between the two therefore would see the Indians acting as a pivot, and so be diligently courted to act for either side in any future conflict. When Johnson was chosen to enlist the help of the Five Nations, he had already been welcomed by them as someone who would treat them in an honest and straightforward manner. Qualities of loyalty, honesty and respect for friends and families were appreciated by the Native Americans; they found them in Johnson, so much so that they named him Warraghiyagey ('doer of great things or 'chief big business'), and in 1760 bestowed the title of sachem (administrative chief) on him.

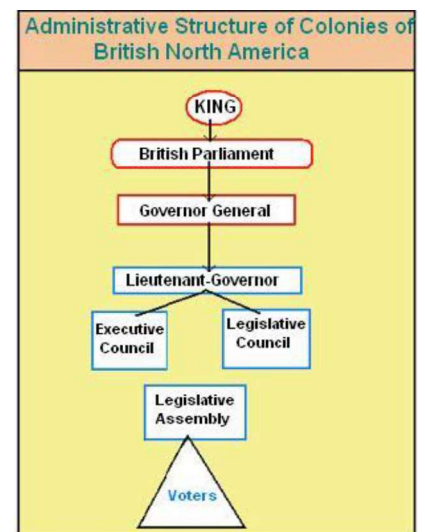
Station 2



American Colonists did not experience too much interference from the British Crown before the French and Indian War. There were “Town Hall Meetings” that gave citizens an opportunity to participate in government and Colonial Assemblies passed the laws in the colonies and were the start of the representative form of government in the United States.

As the only electable body in the colonial political system, the colonial assemblies were also responsible for approving new local taxes and colonial government budgets. Colonial assemblies were also responsible for approving financial matters related to the militia, private and public tax codes, and trade within their regions.

This political cartoon was by Ben Franklin in 1754, at the start of the French and Indian War.



Station 3

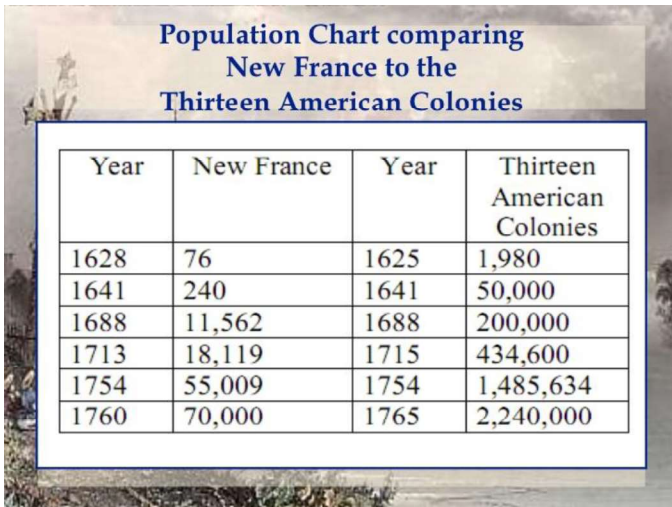


Chart 1



Map 1



Map 2

Name: _____

Date: _____

Station 1

1. What type of source is this? How do you know this?

2. Who was William Johnson? Why was he an important historical figure?

3. Why do you think they needed a Superintendent for Indian Affairs? What was his job?

4. What role did Native Americans play before the start of the French and Indian War?

5. How would you describe the relationship between Native Americans and Europeans? Good? Bad? Explain your answer.

6. Re-read the quote below. What does this tell you about how Europeans saw the Native Americans?

“Any war between the two therefore would see the Indians acting as a pivot, and so be diligently courted to act for either side in any future conflict.”

Station 2

1. How involved do you think the British Monarch was in colonial affairs? Did colonists have a say in government?

2. Why would colonists want to be a British colony? Explain.

3. Look at the political cartoon. Ben Franklin wanted the colonies to unite against who? Why would being united against this common enemy make them stronger?

4. How do you think the British felt about the colonists?

5. If this relationship was good, why would the American colonies want to declare their independence in 1776- after the French and Indian War?

Station 3

1. Where are the most populated areas in North America? Why do you think that is? What is the advantage to having a large population?

2. Based on the chart, why do you think New France has such a small population compared to British America, especially when there is so much more land available in New France?

3. Look at Map 1. What can you predict about the role of forts in the French and Indian War? Why are they usually located near waterways?

Summary Questions (To be answered in your notebook for HW)

1. How do you think the role of Native Americans will change over the course of the French and Indian War? (Will they gain or lose power? How?)
2. What are the key strengths that the British have over the French?
3. How do you think the colonists feel about the British at this point? How will this change?