

Grade 11: American History

The French and Indian War

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Directions: The following question is based on the accompanying documents (1-7). Some of these documents have been edited for the purpose of these exercises. This question is designed to test your ability to work with historic documents. As you analyze these documents and answer the questions regarding each, take into account both the sources of the document and the author's point of view.

Historic Context

Title: The Seven Years' War

Type of document: overview

Annotation:

Half a century of conflict between Britain and France over North America culminated in the French and Indian War. When the war began, there were more than about 2 million British colonists in America and about 65,000 French in Canada.

Unlike the three previous Anglo-French wars, which were outgrowths of European conflicts, this one began with colonial initiatives. Fur traders from Pennsylvania and Virginia were eager to trade with Indians in the Ohio River valley. Leading Virginia planters, who were interested in developing the region, had formed the Ohio Company, and with support of London merchants, had received a royal grant of 200,000 acres in the Ohio River valley in 1749.

The French, determined to secure the territory against encroaching British and American traders and land speculators, built a chain of forts along Pennsylvania's Allegheny River. The British ministry ordered colonial governors to repel the French advance, "by force" if necessary.

In 1753, Virginia's Governor Robert Dinwiddie, an investor in the Ohio Company, sent George Washington, a 21-year old major in the Virginia militia, to Pennsylvania to demand a French withdrawal from the forts. The French refused. In the spring of 1754, Washington returned to Pennsylvania with about 160 men. The French defeated Washington at Fort Necessity, the first battle of the French and Indian War.

Meanwhile, representatives of seven colonies met in Albany, New York, with representatives of the Iroquois Confederacy. The goal of the Albany Congress was to solidify friendship with the Iroquois in light of the approaching war with France and to discuss the possibility of an inter-colonial union. Benjamin Franklin presented a "plan of union" at the conference that would establish a Grand Council which would be able to levy taxes, raise troops, and regulate trade with the Indians. The delegates at the congress approved the plan, but the colonies refused to ratify it, since it threatened their power of taxation.

Following the surrender of Fort Necessity, Britain ordered 60-year-old Major General Edward Braddock and a combined force of 3000 redcoats and colonial militia to attack the French stronghold of Fort Duquesne at the site of present-day Pittsburgh. French and Indian forces ambushed the expedition eight miles from the fort, killing Braddock and leaving two-thirds of his soldiers dead or wounded.

In 1756, William Pitt became the king's new chief minister. Viewing America as the place "where England and Europe are to be fought for," Pitt let Prussia bear the brunt of the Seven Years' War in Europe, while concentrating British military resources in America. He united the previously divided colonies by guaranteeing payment for military services and supplies. He also installed younger and more capable officers.

Pitt's strategy worked. In 1758, the British, with colonial forces assisting, seized Louisbourg a French fortress guarding the mouth of the St. Lawrence River. In 1759, British forces sailed up the river, laid siege to the city of Québec for three months, and defeated French forces in September. The next year, Montreal also surrendered to the British, ending the fighting in America.

The war came to an official end in 1763, with the signing of the Treaty of Paris. The treaty gave Britain all French land in Canada except for two tiny fishing islands south of Newfoundland. To the south, the treaty gave Britain all of France's holdings east of the Mississippi river, which now became the boundary between the British colonies and Louisiana, which Spain received from France before ceding Florida to Britain. In effect, triumphant Britain chose to keep Canada rather than the conquered Caribbean slave colonies Guadeloupe and Martinique, which were returned to France.

Question: Discuss the impact the French and Indian War had on the settlement of North America.

Part A: Short Answer

Directions: Analyze the following documents and answer each question accompanying each document.

Background information for Document 1:

Annotation:

Immediately before the American Revolution, there were not just 13 British colonies in the New World; there were thirty, stretching from Guiana on the South American coast to Hudson Bay. Many people in Britain regarded the Caribbean as the most valuable portion of Britain's New World empire. Through the seventeenth century, the revenue produced in the West Indies was vastly greater than that produced by the mainland colonies. A single island, Barbados, had more people in 1676 than all of New England. By the mid-eighteenth century, however, the value of the mainland colonies both as a source of raw materials and as a market for British goods was becoming increasingly apparent.

A Maryland newspaper, excerpting a report from an English magazine, offers a perspective on why the French and Indian war had begun and why the American colonies were worth protecting.

DOCUMENT 1

Gilder Lehrman Document Number: GLB 321

Title: British North America in 1755

Year: 1755

Type of document: newspaper article

Quotation: "Canada must be subdued"

Such is the British Empire in North America; which from Nova-Scotia to Georgia is a Tract of 1600 Miles Sea-Coast; a Country productive of all the necessaries and Conveniences of Life; and which already contains a greater Number of People than either the Kingdom of Naples and Sicily, Sardinia, Portugal, Spain, Denmark, Sweden, or Prussia, or the Republic of Holland. In short, there are but three Powers in Europe, which surpass them in Number, the German Empire, France, and perhaps England. America is become the Fountain of our Riches, for with America our greatest trade is carried on....

This is the Country, which the French have many Years envied us, and which they have been long meditating to make themselves Masters of: They are at length come to a Resolution to attack us, in profound Peace, in one of the best of those Colonies, Virginia; and in that part of it which lies on the River Ohio, to which Country they never pretended before. Every one knows that the English were the first and only Europeans who settled Virginia.... The French however if they find their Way to the Coast of Virginia, will easily over-run the provinces, because each Province considers itself as independence of the Rest, and the Invaders from Canada all act under one Governor; to unite 13 Provinces which fill an Extent of 1600 Miles is not easy.... Canada must be subdued.

Question 1: Why are the French envious of Britain?

Question 2: Why is the 1600 mile tract important?

Background information for Document 2:

Annotation:

A soldier's diary provides a vivid first-hand account of fighting in northern New York during the early stages of the Seven Years' War (French and Indian War), when the British and colonial forces suffered a series of punishing defeats at the hands of the French and their Indian allies.

DOCUMENT 2

Gilder Lehrman Document Number: GLC 4944

Title: A Soldier's Diary

Author: Robert Moses

Year: 1755

Type of document: diary

...We were informed that a number of Indians killed two men in a very barbarous manner. Destroyed eight cattle carried away the value of three. A scout consisting of thirty men pursued them on Friday July 25th [1755] but could not discover them.....

...we received intelligence that a number of Indians supposed to consist of one hundred killed two men about two miles from the Fort [Bellowe's Fort], took the man's heart and cut it in two and laid it on his neck, and butchers the other most barbarously, sought a house near the Fort, wounded one man that he died about an hour after our arrival....

Cutlasses and hatchets playing on every quarter with much effusion of blood but our New Hampshire forces being fresh & courageous and the Enemy tired and much discouraged with the Defeat they met with, retreated and made their escape toward a Creek the next day they were pursued a vast quantity of plunder was taken up which they dropped in the creek. The day after the battle three Frenchmen were taken up by the Guard of Fort Lymon who upon examination declared that their Army was entirely broke....

Question 3: To what does Moses attribute their success against the French?

Background information for Document 3:

Annotation:

In 1756, the French and their Indian allies won a series of military victories in what is now upstate New York and southern Ontario. Following the British and colonial defeats in the early stages of the conflict, Governor Stephen Hopkins (1707-1785) of Rhode Island issued a proclamation calling for a day of fasting and repentance. Because the United States has not been the scene of bloody battles, invasions, and wartime atrocities for well over 130 years (except, of course, for the Native American population), it is easy to forget the ravages and perils of the first 258 years of our history.

DOCUMENT 3

Gilder Lehrman Document Number: GLC 1412.11

Title: Fasting and Repentance

Author: Stephen Hopkins

Year: 1756

Type of document: proclamation

All who acknowledge God's moral Government of the World, believe that the Sins of Mankind draw down his Judgments upon them. And as the English Colonies on the Continent are fallen under the Chastising hand of Heaven who has permitted the barbarous and cruel Savages of the Wilderness to spoil and destroy their Borders to murder their young Men and to carry their Sons and Daughters into the most Calamitous Captivity and are threatened with Wars Still more General and Judgments which portend their utter Extirpation Under such Circumstances Reason Suggests and Revelation Demonstrates that our whole Safety depend on deeply humbling ourselves before God Sincerely repenting of our Sins and religiously resolving to reform our Lives and Actions for the Time to come.

Such Considerations have moved the General assembly of the said Colony to direct Me to proclaim Thursday the Twentieth Day of this Instant May to be observed as a Day of Fasting and Prayer throughout the Colony and that no Servile Labor be done on that Day but that all Societies

of Christians within the Same Assemble themselves together at their Several usual Places of public Worship and there humbly address the Throne of Grace for the Preservation of George the Second our present King of his Royal Family and of the British Constitution and for the Peace and Safety of all his Colonies. And principally that we may break off from our Sins by hearty Repentance and may avert the Judgments of God and obtain his Favor by true Amendment of Life.

Question 4: Describe why Hopkins has made this proclamation.

Question 5: What result does he hope to obtain?

Background information for Document 4:

Annotation:

The climatic battle of the conflict took place on September 12-13, 1759. After laying siege to the city of Québec for three months, 5,000 British regulars sail past the city and secretly scaled the cliffs leading to the Plains of Abraham, west of the city, under cover of darkness. The French moved quickly to repel the surprise attack, but within 15 minutes, the battle was decided. Captain John Knox offers a first-hand account of the decisive battle that brought an end to French rule over Canada.

DOCUMENT 4

Title: The Capture of Québec

Author: John Knox

Year: 1763

Type of document: journal

About ten o'clock the enemy began to advance briskly in three columns, with loud shouts and recovered arms, two of them inclining to the left of our army, and the third towards our right, firing obliquely at the two extremities of our line, from the distance of one hundred and thirty, until they came within forty, yards; which our troops withstood with the greatest intrepidity and firmness, still reserving their fire, and paying the strictest obedience to their officers. This uncommon steadiness, together with the havoc which the grapeshot from our fieldpieces made among them, threw them into some disorder, and was most critically maintained by a well-timed, regular, and heavy discharge of our small arms, such as they could no longer oppose. Hereupon they gave way, and fled with precipitation, so that, by the time the cloud of smoke was vanished, our men were again loaded, and, profiting by the advantage we had over them, pursued them almost to the gates of the town and the bridge over the little river, redoubling our fire with great eagerness, making many officers and men prisoners.

Question 6: To what does Knox attribute the victory?

Background information for document 5:

Annotation:

No longer able to play the French off against the British, Native Americans found it increasingly difficult to slow the advance of white settlers into the western parts of New York, Pennsylvania, North and South Carolina, and Virginia. To stop encroachments on their lands in the Southeast, the Cherokees attacked frontier settlements in the Carolinas and Virginia in 1760. Defeated the next year by British regulars and colonial militia, the Cherokees had to allow the English to build forts on their territory.

Indians in western New York and Ohio also faced encroachment onto their lands. With the French threat removed, the British reduced the price paid for furs, allowed settlers to take Indian land without payments, and built forts in violation of treaties with local tribes. In the Spring of 1763, an Ottawa chief named Pontiac led an alliance of Delaware, Seneca, Shawnee, and other western Indians in rebellion. Pontiac's alliance attacked forts in Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin that Britain had taken over from the French, destroying all but three. Pontiac's forces then moved eastward, attacking settlements in western Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, killing more than 2000 colonists. Without assistance from the French, however, Pontiac's rebellion petered out by the year's end.

The following letter provides context for Pontiac's uprising. Teedyuscung, a leader of the Delawares who is mentioned in the letter, originally sided with the French during the French and Indian War. Once the British agreed to honor Teedyuscung's land claims, however, he threw his support to England. The British also wanted to gain the support of the Iroquois, the most powerful people in western New York. At the Albany Congress in 1754, British commissioners (including Richard Peters (1704-1776), author of this letter) met with the leaders of the Iroquois League under the pretense of addressing Iroquois grievances. But instead they arranged agreements beneficial to themselves, outraging the Iroquois as well as many colonists who wanted the lands for themselves.

DOCUMENT 5

Gilder Lehrman Document Number: GLC 766

Title: The Fate of Native Americans

Author: Richard Peters

Year: 1761

Type of document: letter

...There is a general Disposition in all the Tribes of Western Indians to come to Philadelphia next Summer, which will produce a numerous meeting.... You [will hear] of the very bad behavior of Teedyuseung [a leader of the Delawares] at Pittsburgh, and in the other Places where he had any thing to do, and that he is in very low repute among his Ohio Brethren of the Delaware Indians.... However abundance will be said of them at the ensuing Treaty, & many things which may affect the Rights and former Proceedings of the Six Nations [a federation of tribes consisting of the Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca, and Tuscarora]; and therefore it may be absolutely necessary that there should be a very respectful Body of Deputies properly instructed...present at this meeting....

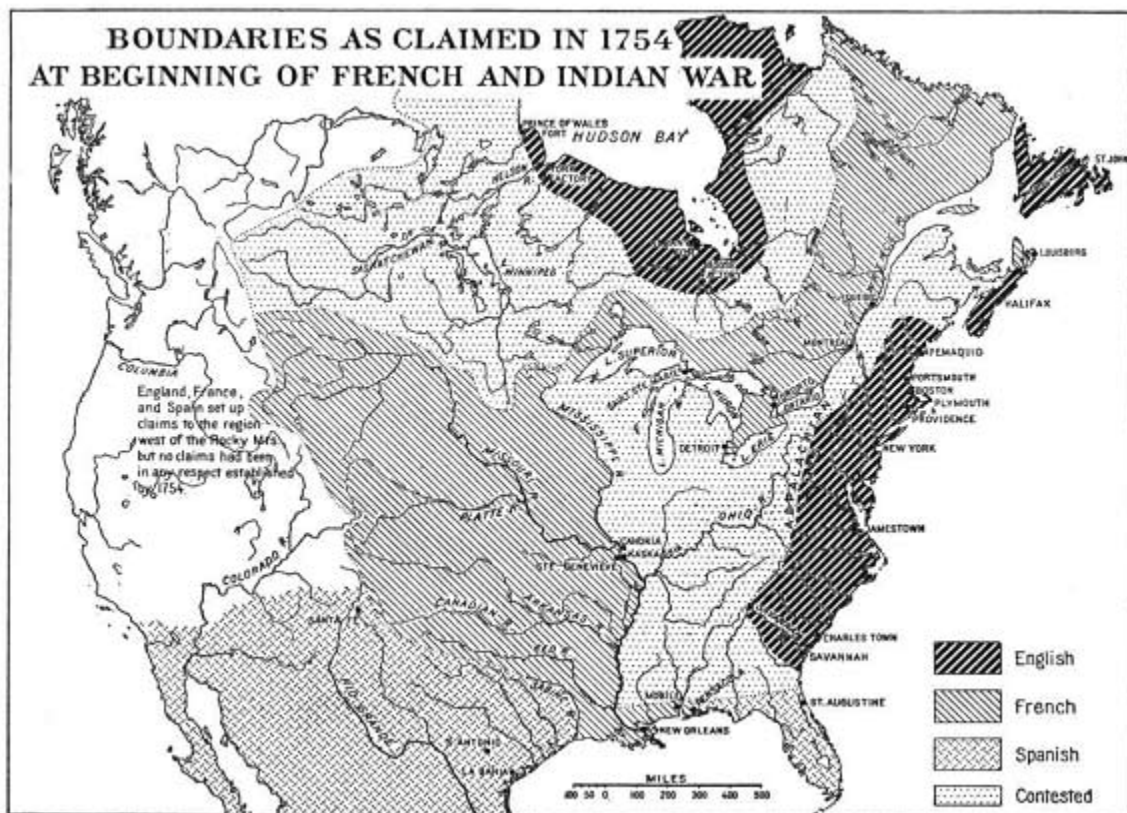
The Connecticut People are making their grand push both in England for a new Grant from the King, and in this Province for a forcible entry and detainer of the Indian Land, on no other Pretence than that their Charter extends to the South Seas, and so like mad men they will cross New York and New Jersey, and come and kindle an Indian war in the Bowels of this poor Province....

Question 7: What are they expecting Teedyuseung to do at the meeting in Philadelphia and what do they plan to do in return?

Question 8: Explain what the Connecticut People are trying to do and what they think will happen as a result.

Document 7 – Maps

Compare the English (British) boundaries in Map #1 at the beginning of the war to the boundaries in Map #2 at the end of the war.



Map #1



Map #2

Question 9: What major difference do you notice?

Question 10: What effects will this have when American colonists demand independence from Britain?

Part B: Essay Response

Directions: Write an essay that discusses the impact the French and Indian War had on the settlement of North America.

Essay should be well organized with an introductory paragraph that states your position on the question. Develop your position in the next paragraphs and write a conclusion. Your essay should include specific historical details and refer to the specific documents you analyzed in Part A.

Sources:

- Digital History@ http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/documents/documents_p1.cfm
- www.brittanica.com/ebc/art-52892
- www.american.edu/kckbritish-era-1763-75.png
- www.reenacting.net/fiwar.html

Document Based Question Scoring Rubric

Directions: Use the scoring rubric below to evaluate a DBQ essay.

Criteria	5	4	3	2	1	0	Score
thesis / answers question	Strong thesis-responds directly to the question	Thesis stated-answers the question	Addresses the question but has weak structure and focus.	Poor focus; fails to answer the question adequately.	Fails to address the question; confusing and unfocused.	No thesis; no attempt to address the question.	
use of documents / evidence	Uses documents completely and accurately; weighs the importance and validity of evidence	Uses documents correctly; recognizes that all evidence is not equally valid	Uses most documents correctly-simplistic analysis; does not always weigh the importance and validity of evidence.	Some documents used correctly; some only paraphrased or misunderstood; fails to recognize any difference in the validity of evidence.	Fails to use documents correctly; simply paraphrased or misunderstood.	Ignores or misuses the documents.	
outside	Cites considerable relevant information from outside learning	Cites some relevant information from outside learning	Includes little relevant information from outside learning.	Includes little information from outside learning- what is included is irrelevant.	Includes no relevant information from beyond the documents.	Includes no information from beyond the documents.	

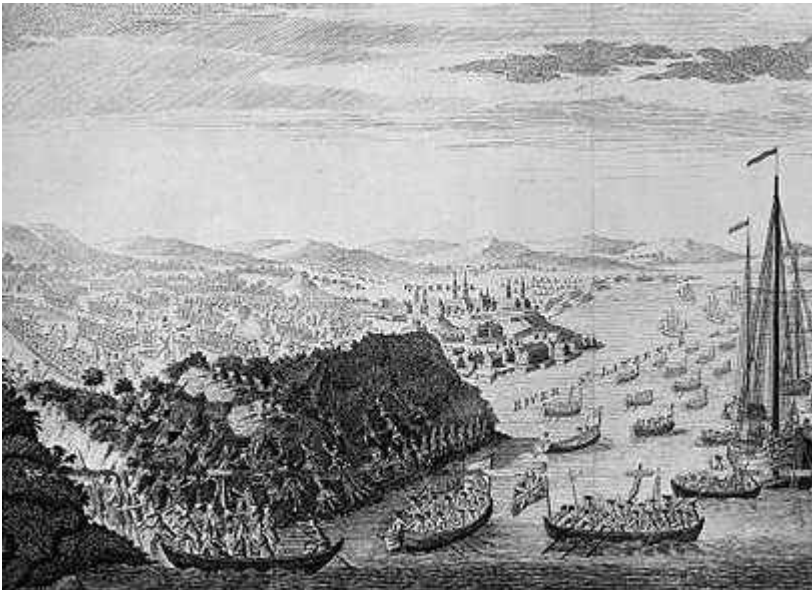
information							
understanding of topic	Displays a thorough understanding of the topic and related issues	Shows an understanding of the topic and related issues.	Shows basic, though simplistic, understanding of the topic and related issues.	Show little understanding of the topic and related issues.	Shows almost no understanding of the topic or related issues.	Shows no understanding of the topic or related issues.	
use of language	Well structured, well written; proper spelling, grammar, mechanics	Clearly written and coherent; some minor errors in writing	Weaker organization; some errors in writing detract from essay's meaning.	Poorly organized; many errors in standard English	Disorganized; littered with errors in standard English.	Lacks any organization; little attempt made; blank paper.	
TOTAL SCORE							

Student who wrote essay:

Student scoring essay:

Signature:

Document 6



In 1759, during the French and Indian War, British troops landed upstream from Quebec and defeated the French troops on the Plains of Abraham.

Question: What effect did the British capture of Quebec have on the outcome of the war?