

English and French in Ohio River Valley

During the latter part of the 17th and the first of the 18th century, England and France went to war in Europe. Each time, the fighting spread to North America. In the colonies the wars were known as King William's War (1689-1697), Queen Anne's War (1702-1713), and King George's War (1744-1748). These wars did little to change the territorial makeup of the colonies but kept the two nations at odds as they approached a fourth war.

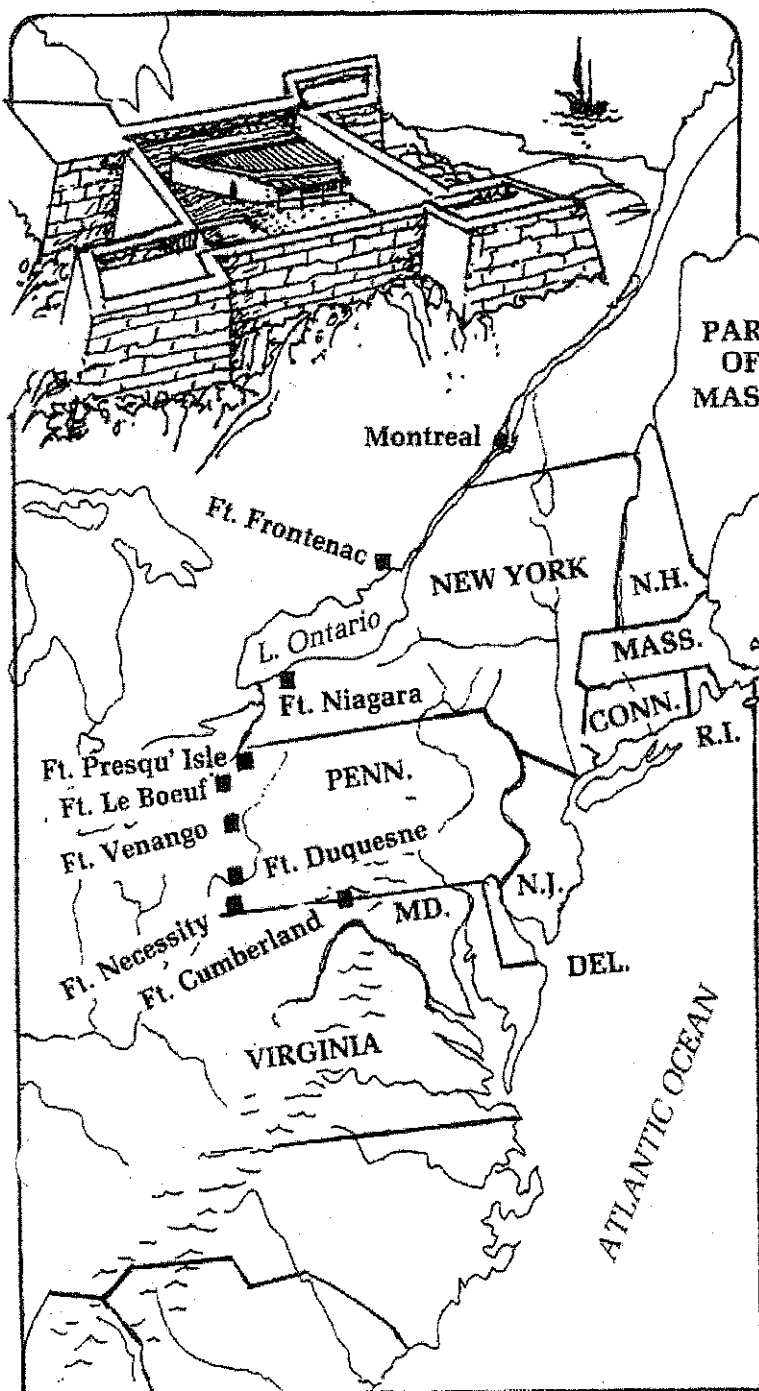
The problem was that the Ohio River Valley, just west of the Appalachians, had what both England and France desired in North America. In that valley both nations could find fertile farmland and many fur-bearing animals. Also, the Monongahela,

Allegheny, and Ohio rivers were the best sources of transportation, making this a very desirable area to control.

In 1753, the French made the first serious step to secure a hold on the Ohio River Valley. Two forts — Presqu' Isle and Le-Boeuf — were constructed. The next year, Ft. Venango was built, pushing the French further south into the valley.

The English responded by issuing orders to the Virginia Lieutenant Governor, Robert Dinwiddie, to send an emissary to the commandant at Ft. Le Boeuf with a warning to the French to stop building forts.

Dinwiddie chose a 21-year-old Virginian named George Washington. Young Washington successfully delivered the message (a feat in itself) but the answer he delivered to Dinwiddie in January of 1754 did not please his leader — the French were in the Ohio Valley to stay.



Review and Write

1. What was the attraction of the Ohio River Valley? _____

2. How did the French solidify their claim to the Ohio Valley? _____

3. On the map, several French forts are shown. (Fts. Necessity and Cumberland are English.) Why were the French forts intimidating to the English along the coast?

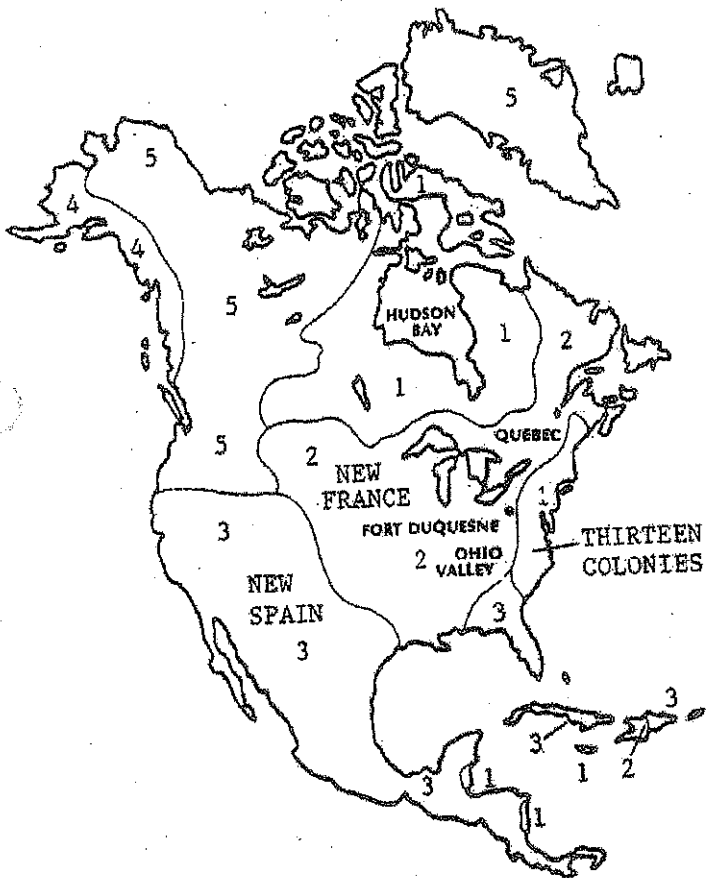
Map Exercise The two maps below show North America before and after the French and Indian War. The numbers on each map correspond with the numbers in the key, and show the territory controlled by each European country. Use colors or special markings (diagonal lines, shaded areas, etc.) on the maps to represent the territory held by each country. Be sure to fill in the boxes in the map keys with the same colors or markings.

Before the French and Indian War

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|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> | English | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> | Russian |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> | French | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> | Unexplored |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> | Spanish | | |

After the French and Indian War

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> | English | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> | Russian |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> | French | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> | Unexplored |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> | Spanish | | |



Questions

- (1) Before the French and Indian War, most of the interior of North America was claimed by the _____.
- (2) The _____ and land around the Hudson Bay were controlled by England.
- (3) Before the war, Fort Duquesne and the city of Quebec were located in _____ territory.
- (4) As a result of the French and Indian War, the _____ lost almost all of their territory in the New World.
- (5) _____ territory after the war stretched west to the Mississippi River.