

Unit 6, Lesson 3: The French & Indian War

Lesson Overview

In this lesson, students will learn about the causes of the French and Indian war. This war is incredibly significant not only because the British empire will double in size but also because one effect of the war will be the beginning of a strained relationship between the “mother country” (Britain) and her 13 American colonies. The road to revolution begins with the French and Indian war.

Delaware Standard(s)

- **History Standard 1, 4-5 [Chronology]:** Students will study historical events and persons within a given time frame in order to create a chronology and identify related cause-effect factors.
- **History Standard 2a, 4-5 [Analysis]:** Students will draw historical conclusions and construct historical accounts from primary and secondary source materials
- **History Standard 2b, 4-5 [Analysis]:** Students will examine historical materials relating to a particular region, society, or theme; chronologically arrange them; and analyze change over time.

Big Ideas: causes-effects, change over time

Essential Questions

- How did the effects of the French and Indian war prove to be such a costly victory?

Enduring Understandings

- Students will understand that the French and Indian War proved to be a very costly victory for Britain as the debt incurred to win it will end up costing Britain its 13 colonies.

Resources

- [Google Slides](#)
- [Resource 1: Warm-up Slides - A Tale of Two Rivals](#)
- [Resource 2: War Erupts!](#)
- [Resource 3: Checks for Understanding](#)

Procedures

1. **Warm-Up:** The Warm-Up is presented via [Resource 1: Warm-up Slides - A Tale of Two Rivals](#), a brief slide presentation that prepares students for understanding a cause of the French and Indian War. There is text for the slides in the notes section that also appears below.

Warm-Up Slides Script

Slide 1: This is a short story about two short critters who were rivals.

Slide 2: Far and deep in the woods near you live many critters. Most are small, cute, cuddly, and friendly.

Slide 3: But there were a couple who were not so. They have had a difficult time finding food – tasty food, not just any kind. As a result, they have become rivals and a bit nasty.

Slide 4: They have been searching and searching – far and wide. Still no food and they are getting VERY hungry. Suddenly something yellow with holes fell from the sky. To some, it looked like litter. But to our two little rivals, it was something that they had been dreaming and drooling over.

Slide 5: Do you see WHAT it is? Do you see WHERE it is? So, here are some questions I want you to discuss: what is likely to happen and, where will it likely happen?

2. **Introduce the Lesson**: Tell students that they are now going to read about a different but real rivalry that existed in history, and that will begin turning the relationship between Britain and its colonists quite sour - just like rotten cheese.
3. **Reading**: Distribute copies of [Resource 2: War Erupts!](#) The reading abilities of your students will determine how you proceed with the reading, but you are encouraged to chunk the learning by stopping after each question to allow time to process and discuss the questions posed as section headers.
4. **Video Support**: A short History Channel video (3:23 in length) that offers a brief overview of the French and Indian War while highlighting significant people, events, causes and effects available [here](#). Pause while watching the clip to reinforce elements from the War Erupts! reading and to emphasize the people and events that offer a preview of events and lessons to come.
5. **Check for Understanding**: Distribute copies of [Resource 3](#) and have students complete the checks for understanding.