

by Andrew Matthews

Imagine the year 1750. Picture yourself as a Native American living around the Great Lakes. The French colonists who have settled in New France (Canada) generally have proven to be good friends and allies. You provide them with the pelts of the animals you trap, and the French offer you manufactured cloth and supplies. But you distrust the increasing numbers of British settlers who are trickling across the mountains from the East. You suspect that unlike the French, who have established only small forts and outposts to help support the fur trade, these foreigners intend to build permanent settlements. This could change your whole way of life.

Now, pretend you are the governor of New France. You are proud of the fact that Frenchman Jacques Cartier was the first European to visit the Gulf of St. Lawrence and explore its waterways in 1534. Now, France claims Canada and the entire Mississippi

River valley. Your countrymen have built a few large settlements — Quebec, Louisbourg, Montreal — but it is a difficult place in which to raise a family, and most of your citizens are here for the fur trade and endure wilderness living. Now, the stories of English settlers appearing on the west side of the Allegheny Mountains disturb you. Their presence could upset your fur trade with the Native Americans and prevent Frenchmen from traveling the nearby waterways.

Lastly, imagine yourself as an American colonist. You are a British subject who brought your family to the Colonies in the hope of starting a new life and owning your own land. But the cities and commerce centers that have sprung up along the coast have large populations, and there are already many farms in the outlying areas. You and a few other families decide to move farther west — toward the frontier, where there are fewer people — and start a new settlement.



Editor's Note: Some of the contemporary views of the war in this issue are photographs from the French and Indian War documentary The War That Made America. For more about the making of this historic film, turn to page 38. For a complete listing of the photos from this source, go to page 48.

You don't realize that you are putting yourself directly in harm's way. Isolated frontier settlements like yours have been the targets of raids and massacres for more than 100 years as Europeans and Native Americans have fought to control the land and waterways of the New World.

France's belief that the course of North America's waterways determined its empire conflicted directly with Great Britain's belief that its empire extended along lines of latitude. So, while France saw the St. Lawrence River, Lake Champlain, the Great Lakes, and the Ohio River as features that defined its empire, Great Britain believed that it controlled any land to the west of its established colonies along the Atlantic Ocean.

These two nations have been fighting a series of wars in Europe, North America, Africa, India, and other parts of the world since 1689. By the mid-1700s, they are locked in a winner-take-all struggle for control of the North American continent.

In this issue, we look at this final war, which was fought from 1754 to 1763. We refer to it as the French and Indian War, but it should more accurately be considered the first world war: Its outcome determined the nation that would dominate North America, as well as much of the rest of the world, for more than a century to come. ↑↑



British (LEFT) and French (OPPOSITE) soldiers both aimed to win the war for empire in North America. The people who lost the most, however, were the original inhabitants of the continent, the Native Americans.

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

War is Coming to North America

Read the article "The Coming Conflict."

1. There are three main groups of people that will be involved in the French and Indian War. Identify each group, and list some information about each group that shows why they were facing conflict

Group	Why they were facing conflict

Read the article "Frontier Fort Life." Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

2. Why did the Europeans have to change the way they were used to fighting battles when they fought in the French and Indian War?

3. Explain the importance of waterways during this time period.

4. What country built Fort Carillon, and why?

5. Who designed Fort Carillon?

6. Why was Fort Carillon built in a star shape?

7. Where did the materials for building the fort come from?

8. Why couldn't soldiers bring their families to stay with them at the fort?

9. What did the soldiers at Fort Carillon spend most of their time doing?

10. What were the major difficulties the soldiers faced at Carillon?