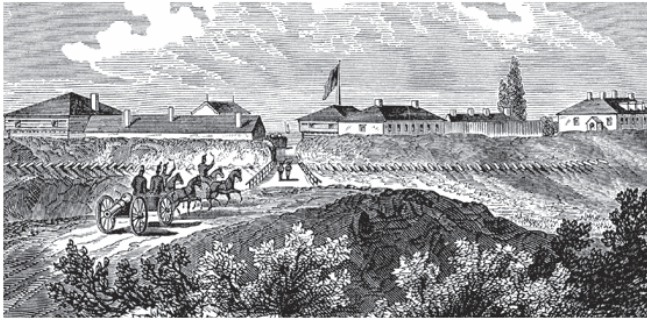


Where  
the past  
is present

# DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## TEACHER RESOURCE LESSON PLAN

### MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES: FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR



#### INTRODUCTION

This lesson helps third grade students understand the life and culture in Detroit during the British occupation between 1760 and 1796. The lesson includes a comprehensive background essay, a list of additional resources, and copies of worksheets and primary sources.

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

What impact did the French and Indian War have on the French, the British, and the Native Americans in Detroit and Michigan?

#### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Learn about the impact of the French and Indian War in Detroit, Michigan, and North America.
- Consider multiple perspectives in history, particularly the points of view of the French, British, and Native Americans.

#### MI GLCES – GRADE THREE SOCIAL STUDIES

##### H3 – History of Michigan Through Statehood

- 3-H3.0.5 - Use informational text and visual data to compare how American Indians and settlers in the early history of Michigan adapted to, used, and modified their environment.
- 3-H3.0.6 - Use a variety of sources to describe interactions that occurred between American Indians and the first European explorers and settlers in Michigan.
- 3-H3.0.8 – Use case studies or stories to describe how the ideas or actions of individuals affected the history of Michigan.

#### COMMON CORE ANCHOR STANDARDS - ELA

##### Reading

- 1 - Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
- 9 - Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

##### Writing

- 1 - Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

# LESSON PLAN: MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES: FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

## BACKGROUND ESSAY

### Who Owns North America?

As the French fur trade in the Great Lakes region prospered in the middle of the 1700s, other nations entered the area – first the British and then the Americans. These nations fought over control of large parts of the Western Hemisphere. Many battles took place to decide which nation would control the region and the forts, and therefore, the fur trade. The Native Americans had been there the longest, so foreign powers often sought their help in the battles. Almost as often these foreign powers made promises to the Native people that they did not keep.

The flag at the fort in Detroit changed many times between 1760 and 1813.

### The French and Indian War

In the 1740s, the population of European Americans on the east coast was rising. The British colonials looked to lands to the west of the Appalachian Mountains for more space. These lands had traditionally belonged to Native American groups, but the French had also claimed them. Around 1750, the French and the British began to argue over who owned the land in present-day western Pennsylvania and Ohio. In 1753, the French began to settle the Ohio River valley, near present-day Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The British, who felt this land belonged to the colony of Virginia, sent a young officer named George Washington to the French fort with a letter asking them to leave. The attempt was a failure, and the British and French continued to fight over control of the area until war was declared in 1756.

The bulk of the fighting in the French and Indian War took place in the New York colony and Quebec, Canada. In the beginning the French won several key battles, but by 1759 the British had gained most of their New York forts back and had started

to capture forts in Canada. In the summer of 1759, the British laid siege to Quebec, knowing it was a strategic French stronghold in the new world. The fighting lasted almost three months, until the French surrendered in September 1759. At this time the British had control of all of North America except Montreal and Detroit.

In the Treaty of Paris in 1760 that ended the war, France ceded all of its land in North America, including Detroit, to the British. In September 1760, British Major Robert Rogers arrived in Detroit and took control of the city from the French.

The British renamed the French Fort Ponchartrain “Fort Detroit.” In

1778 they razed Fort Ponchartrain and built a new fort on a bluff above the village. They named it Fort Lernoult for Richard Lernoult, the British commander in charge of Detroit at the time. The British controlled Detroit from 1760 until 1796, which was more than 12 years after Detroit and Michigan became part of the United States as a result of the American



Revolutionary War.

### Pontiac's Rebellion

By 1763, Ottawa Chief Pontiac was unhappy with the British, who had taken much of the Native American lands in Michigan. The French had tried to deal fairly with the Native Americans, but he feared the British wanted all of his people's land and would cheat them out of it.

Pontiac decided that the only way to protect his people was to unite all the Native American groups in Michigan and attack the British. Their goal would be to kick them off their lands and send them back from where they came.

Pontiac held a great council on the Ecorse River. It included members of many Native American tribes, including the Chippewa, Ottawa, Shawnee,



# LESSON PLAN: MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES: FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

Delaware, Miami, Potawatomi, and Hurons. Together, they planned to attack Fort Detroit. Other Native American groups in Ohio, Illinois and Pennsylvania launched their own attacks on British forts.

Between May and October, eight Great Lakes forts fell. Unable to get Detroit to surrender, Pontiac and his allies held Fort Detroit under siege.

By October, the winter was getting closer and many groups tired of battle and went home. Pontiac then discovered that the British and French had signed a peace treaty, which meant he could no longer count on the support of the French in his attacks. In 1763 Pontiac surrendered his attack on Fort Detroit.

## American Revolution

During the American Revolution Detroit was controlled by the British, but it was not a colony. It was not directly involved in the war for independence, but instead was a strategic stronghold for the British in North America. Detroit

housed several American prisoners of war during the war.

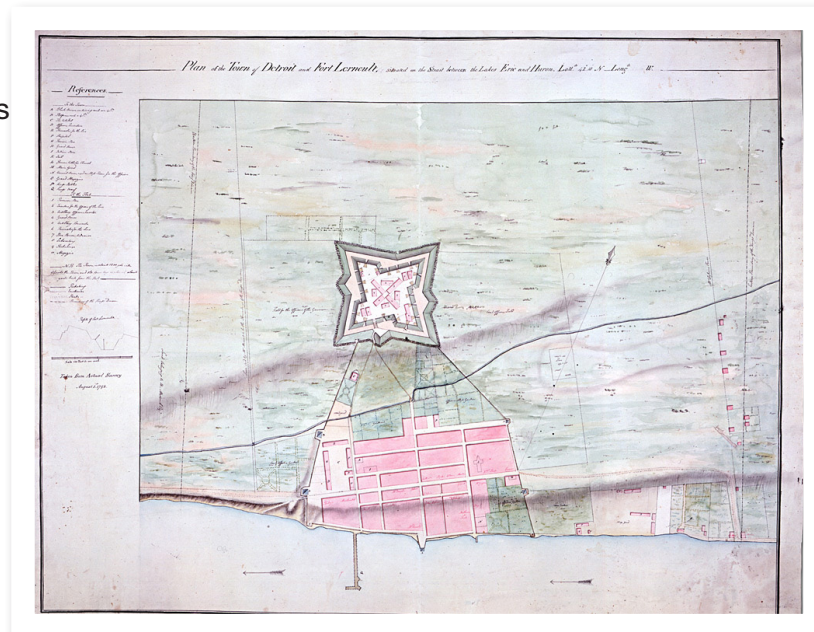
After America won independence from Great Britain in 1783, the new nation fought both the British and Native Americans for control of Great Lakes forts. The British refused to surrender Detroit, and the Americans had a difficult time reaching the fort and village because much of Ohio was controlled by Native American groups that did not want the Americans to take their land.

The conflict between Native American groups and the young United States was called the Northwest Indian War. Many Native Americans in the Northwest Territory had sided with the British in the Revolutionary War. When the British ceded this land to the United States after the Revolutionary War, the

Native Americans were angry. The British had not consulted them before they surrendered the land. As a result, many tribes organized into the Western Indian Confederacy and fought against the U.S. forces that were trying to claim their lands. Under the leadership of Blue Jacket of the Shawnees and Little Turtle of the Miamis, the Western Indian Confederacy won several battles against the Americans in 1790 and 1791. They were encouraged and supplied by the British, who had refused to evacuate British fortifications in the region.

In 1791, President George Washington ordered

General "Mad" Anthony Wayne to organize and train a proper fighting force. Wayne took command late in 1793. He led United States forces to a victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794, which finally brought the conflict to an end. Indian tribes were forced to cede extensive territory, including much of present-day Ohio, in the Treaty of Greenville in 1795.



In 1796, after Colonel John Francis Hamtramck secured the village for the Americans, the British surrendered Detroit to Captain Moses Porter. Over ten years after Detroit officially became property of the United States, it finally was controlled by American troops.

# LESSON PLAN: MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES: FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

## MATERIALS USED:

### Data Elements

- *Essay: French and Indian War*
- *Scenario Cards: French, British, Native Americans*

### Worksheets

- *French and Indian War Worksheet*

## LESSON SEQUENCE:

1. Explain to the students that they will learn about the French and Indian War, namely the impact the war had on the French, British and Native Americans that lived in and around Detroit.
2. As a class, read or review *Essay – French and Indian War*.
3. Break the students into three groups. Each group represents one of the cultures: French, British, and Native Americans. Give each group their scenario card from *Scenario Cards: French, British, Native Americans* that addresses the impacts the war had on their group.
4. Instruct the French group to go to the outskirts of the classroom, and explain that the war has lost them their homes in Detroit and North America. Instruct the Indian group to go to the far corner of the room, and explain that they are regrouping after losing their allies, the French. Finally, instruct the British group to sit wherever they would like, since they own all of the land and can do what they please.
5. One at a time, have each group read their scenario card aloud to the class. Lead a brief discussion about their arrangements in the room and the information they just read on their cards. Suggested questions may include: How do you feel about where you are in the classroom? Is it fair? How do you think members of your group felt when this occurred in real life?
6. Pass out *French and Indian War Worksheet*. Explain that each group will have ten minutes to answer the questions on the handout. They need to include their reasons for fighting in the war, an explanation as to the results of the war, and their feelings about it.

7. Have each group present their answers to the class.
8. Afterwards, lead a class discussion about the different perspectives. Questions may include: Which side was right? Was more than one group right? Wrong?



For more information about the **Detroit Historical Society**, or to schedule a field trip to the **Detroit Historical Museum** or **Dossin Great Lakes Museum**, visit [detroithistorical.org](http://detroithistorical.org)

# LESSON PLAN: MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES: FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Anderson, Fred. *Crucible of War: The Seven Years' War and the Fate of Empire in British North America, 1754-1766*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000.

Anderson, Fred. *The War That Made America: A Short History of the French and Indian War*. New York: Viking, 2005.

Antal, Sandy. *Wampum Denied: Proctor's War of 1812*. Ottawa: Carleton University Press, 1997.

Barry, James P. *Old Forts of the Great Lakes: Sentinels in the Wilderness*. Lansing, Mich: Thunder Bay Press, 1994.

Borneman, Walter R. *The French and Indian War: Deciding the Fate of North America*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2006.

Burton, Clarence Monroe, William Stocking, and Gordon K. Miller. *The City of Detroit Michigan 1701-1922*. Volume 1. Charleston, SC: Nabu Press, 2010.

Emery, Benjamin Franklin. *Sketches of Old Michigan Forts*. Detroit: Old Forts and Historic Memorial Association, 1931.

Dixon, David. *Never Come to Peace Again: Pontiac's Uprising and the Fate of the British Empire in North America*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2005.

Dunnigan, Brian Leigh. *Frontier Metropolis: Picturing Early Detroit, 1701-1838*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2001.

Gavrilovich, Peter, and Bill McGraw. *The Detroit Almanac: 300 Years of Life in the Motor City*. Detroit, Mich: Detroit Free Press, 2000.

Grimm, Joe. *Michigan Voices: Our State's History in the Words of the People Who Lived It*. Detroit, Mich: Detroit Free Press, 1987.

Henrickson, Wilma Wood. *Detroit Perspectives: Crossroads and Turning Points*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1991.

Hamil, Fred C. *When Beaver Was King*. Detroit: Wayne University Press, 1951.

Johnson, Ida Amanda. *The Michigan Fur Trade*. Lansing: Michigan Historical Commission, 1919.

Mason, Philip P. *Detroit, Fort Lernoult, and the American Revolution*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1964.

Skaggs, David Curtis and Larry L. Nelson, eds. *The Sixty Years' War for the Great Lakes, 1754-1814*. East Lansing: MSU Press, 2001.

Sword, Wiley. *President Washington's Indian War: The Struggle for the Old Northwest, 1790-1795*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1985.

Taylor, Alan. *The Divided Ground: Indians, Settlers and the Northern Borderland of the American Revolution*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006.

Voorhis, Ernest. *Historic Forts and Trading Posts of the French Regime and of the English Trading Companies*. Ottawa: Dept. of the Interior, 1930.

## LINKS

History.com, French and Indian War: <http://www.history.com/topics/french-and-indian-war>

Library of Congress, Northwest Ordinance: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/northwest.html>

NC Department of Cultural resources, French and Indian War Interactive: [http://www.ncdcr.gov/interactive/french\\_indian\\_war/index.html](http://www.ncdcr.gov/interactive/french_indian_war/index.html)

NPS, Military Architecture on the American Frontier: [http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online\\_books/gero/papers/1983-1984/sec5.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/gero/papers/1983-1984/sec5.htm)

Ohio History Central, American Revolution: [http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/topic.php?nm=american\\_revolution&rec=3](http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/topic.php?nm=american_revolution&rec=3)

Ohio History Central, French and Indian War: <http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=498>

Ohio History Central, Pontiac's Rebellion: <http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=539>



## FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR WORKSHEET



The French and Indian War was a struggle for control of much of North America. The British, the French and the Native Americans all had reasons for fighting in the war. Using your scenario card and the reading on the war, answer the following questions about your group.

What group do you represent?

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What part of North America did you control before the war?

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Why did you fight in the war?

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What happened to your group at the end of the war?

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How does your group feel about the results of the war?

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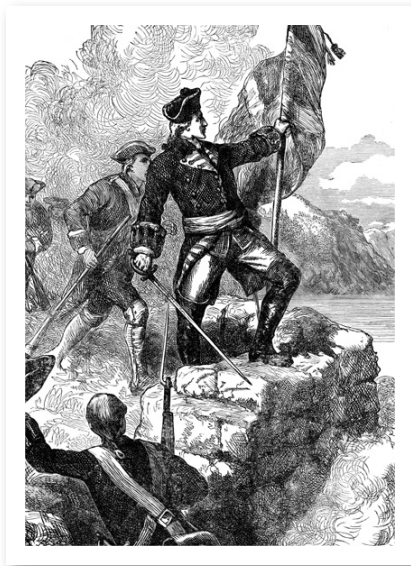
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## ESSAY: FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

In the 1740s the population of European Americans on the east coast was growing. The British colonials looked to lands west of the Appalachian Mountains for more space. These lands had traditionally belonged to Native American groups, but the French had claimed them. Around 1750, the French and the British began to argue over who owned the land in present-day western Pennsylvania and Ohio. In 1753 the French began to settle the Ohio River Valley, near present-day Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The British, who felt this land belonged to the colony of Virginia, sent a young officer named George Washington to the French Fort Duquesne with a letter asking them to leave. The attempt was a failure.

In 1754 Washington began to build a British fort in the area, but the French presence was too strong. After a small battle, Washington surrendered the small fort he had managed to build. The incident set off more fighting between the British and the French. In 1755, the British sent General Edward Braddock to oversee the British Colonial forces, but he was killed in a battle with the French before he arrived at the fort.



After a year and a half of small battles, the French and the English formally declared war in May 1756. For the first three years of the war, the French dominated the battlefield, defeating the English in battles mainly in upstate New York.

Perhaps the most notorious battle of the war was the French victory at Fort William Henry, which ended in a massacre of British soldiers by Indians allied with the French.

In 1758 the British began to win key battles.

They made peace with important Indian allies and, under the direction of Lord William Pitt, began using war strategies that worked better in the wilderness of the frontier. Also, several Indian groups started abandoning the French,



which weakened France's resistance to the strengthened British forces. By 1758 the French were outnumbered and outgunned by the British. In the summer of 1759, the British laid siege to Quebec, knowing it was a strategic French stronghold in the new world. The fighting lasted almost three months, until the French surrendered in September 1759. At this time the British had control of all of North America except Montreal and Detroit.

By September 1760 the British controlled the entire North American frontier; the war between the two countries was effectively over. In the Treaty of Paris of 1760 that ended the war, France surrendered all of its land in North America, including Detroit, to the British. In September 1760, British Major Robert Rogers arrived in Detroit and took control of the city from the French.

The British renamed the French Fort Ponchartrain "Fort Detroit." In 1778 they knocked down Fort Detroit and built a new fort on a bluff above the village. They named it Fort Lernoult for Richard Lernoult, the British commander in charge of Detroit at the time.

The British controlled Detroit from 1760 until 1796, more than 12 years after Detroit and Michigan became part of the United States during the American Revolutionary War.

## THE FRENCH POINT OF VIEW



We do not understand why the British think they own the upper Ohio River Valley. Their claim to lands in North America does not pass the natural border of the Appalachian Mountains.

We have been in this part of North America for over 50 years. We are allies with the Native Americans who have lived on this land for centuries, and they have granted us permission to build a fort and settlement here.

We think the British and their American Colonists are greedy, and want to take more land than is rightfully theirs. How dare they?

## THE BRITISH POINT OF VIEW



Who do the French think they are? Clearly the land in the Ohio River Valley belongs to our colony of Virginia. We made this clear years ago. They have no right to push us off the land. They are greedy and only want to use the land for animal pelts which will make them rich back in Europe. For shame!

They have no desire to settle this land and make a better living here. Our colonists have needs! They want to live in the frontier and have plenty of room to farm and live their lives.



## THE NATIVE AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW



We are in trouble. Both the French and British are fighting over lands that belong to neither of them. These lands have been our home for centuries.

We have allowed the French to use our lands because they treat us fairly. They respect our culture and trade with us. The British want our lands all to themselves. If they move here, they will force us off our lands.

We do not want to choose sides in this war, because both the French and British have become greedy, but we must. We will fight with the French to help save our cultures and ways of life.