



Day 4 French and Indian War
70 Minutes

Battles

Lesson Plan: Battles of the French and Indian War

A Global Rivalry Fought in North America

Grade Level: 6–8

Time: 50–55 minutes

Unit Context: French and Indian War → Road to the American Revolution

Lesson Type: Anchor lesson + interactive map scavenger hunt

Lesson Objectives

Students will:

- Identify major battles of the French and Indian War
 - Explain why many key battles occurred in **Canada and the Great Lakes region**
 - Understand the **global rivalry between France and England**
 - Use an interactive map to locate battles and analyze their importance
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Essential Question

Why was the French and Indian War fought across North America—and why did it matter to the entire world?

Materials

- PowerPoint: *Battles of the French and Indian War*
 - Interactive battles map with scavenger hunt (digital)
 - Student notebooks or scavenger hunt response sheet
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Key Vocabulary

- French and Indian War
 - Great Lakes Region
 - Ohio River Valley
 - Siege
 - Surrender
 - Global conflict
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Lesson Procedure

1. Warm-Up / Do Now (5 minutes)

Prompt (projected):

If two powerful countries want the same land, what usually happens?

Students write 2–3 sentences.

Teacher Move:

Briefly discuss responses and introduce the idea of **competition turning into conflict**.

2. Direct Instruction: PowerPoint with Teaching Script (20 minutes)

<https://learnaboutamerica.com/fiwar/battles.pptx>

Use the PowerPoint as the **anchor instruction**. Below is a **slide-by-slide script** you can read or paraphrase.

Slide 1 – Battles of the French and Indian War

Teacher Script:

Today we're going to look at the major battles of the French and Indian War. While some fighting happened in the American colonies, many of the most important battles took place in **Canada and the Great Lakes region**. This war was also part of a much larger global rivalry between France and England.

Slide 2 – A War Over Empire

Key Focus: Geography & competition

Script:

Britain and France both wanted land, power, and trade in North America. The Great Lakes and Ohio River Valley were especially valuable because they allowed control of trade routes. Whoever controlled this region could control the continent.

Slide 3 – A Global Rivalry

Key Focus: World context

Script:

This war wasn't just about North America. France and England were longtime rivals, and fighting took place across the world—in Europe, the Caribbean, Africa, and India. In Europe, this conflict was known as the **Seven Years' War**. What happened in North America affected the balance of power everywhere.

Slide 4 – Jumonville Glen (1754)

Key Focus: Beginning of the war

Script:

One of the first clashes happened at Jumonville Glen. A young **George Washington** led colonial troops against a French scouting party. This small battle helped spark a much larger war.

Slide 5 – Fort Necessity (1754)

Key Focus: Early failure

Script:

After Jumonville Glen, Washington built Fort Necessity. Unfortunately, it was built in a poor location. French forces attacked, and Washington was forced to surrender. This defeat taught him important lessons about leadership and preparation.

Slide 6 – Fort Duquesne

Key Focus: Strategic location

Script:

Fort Duquesne was located where three rivers met—an extremely valuable location. The French used it to control the Ohio River Valley. Eventually, the British captured the fort and renamed it Fort Pitt, helping them gain control of the region.

Slide 7 – Louisbourg (1758)

Key Focus: Canada & naval power

Script:

Louisbourg was a heavily fortified French city in present-day Canada. It protected French access to the St. Lawrence River. When the British captured Louisbourg, it opened the door for attacks deeper into French Canada.

Slide 8 – Plains of Abraham (1759)

Key Focus: Turning point

Script:

The Battle of the Plains of Abraham took place near Quebec City. This was one of the most important battles of the war. The British defeated the French, and both commanding generals were killed. After this battle, French control in Canada began to collapse.

Slide 9 – The Capture of Montreal (1760)

Key Focus: End of fighting in Canada

Script:

When British forces captured Montreal, French resistance in Canada ended. This marked the final defeat of France in North America.

Slide 10 – Surrender and the Treaty of Paris (1763)

Key Focus: Consequences

Script:

In 1763, the war officially ended. France surrendered most of its North American land. Britain gained Canada and lands east of the Mississippi River. France lost nearly all of its empire on the continent.

Slide 11 – Why the War Mattered

Key Focus: Historical impact

Script:

Britain became the dominant power in North America—but the war left Britain deeply in debt. To pay for it, Britain taxed the colonies, which eventually helped lead to the American Revolution.

OPTIONAL: You can go into detail on any of the above battles by using our differentiated articles. Choose the battle of interest from this page:

<https://learnaboutamerica.com/american-history/french-and-indian-war/events-of-the-french-and-indian-war>

3. Interactive Application: Battles Map Scavenger Hunt (20 minutes)

Students transition to the **interactive battles map**. Students can complete the scavenger hunt associated with the map online, or, it can be printed out and collected.

You can demonstrate how to use the map at:

<https://learnaboutamerica.com/american-history/french-and-indian-war/french-and-indian-war-interactive-map>

Before students start the scavenger hunt at:

Student Task

Using the map and scavenger hunt:

- Locate major battles
- Identify **where** they occurred (Canada, Great Lakes, Ohio River Valley)
- Answer questions about **why each location mattered**

Teacher Role

- Circulate
 - Ask guiding questions:
 - *Why are so many battles near rivers or lakes?*
 - *Why do you think Canada was so important in this war?*
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4. Closure / Exit Ticket (5 minutes)

Students respond to one:

- *Why did so many important battles take place in Canada and the Great Lakes region?*
- *How did the French and Indian War change who controlled North America?*