



Day 5-6 French and Indian War  
120 Minutes

The Effects

## Lesson Title

**After the War: How the French and Indian War Changed Everything**

**Grade Levels:** 5–9

**Length:** 2 class periods (60–70 minutes each)

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

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## Big Idea

The French and Indian War did not bring peace—it created new problems. Britain's victory led to debt, land disputes, Native resistance, and colonial anger, setting the stage for revolution.

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## Day 1 Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify the major effects of the French and Indian War
- Explain why Britain changed its colonial policies
- Understand Pontiac's Rebellion and Native resistance
- Analyze cause-and-effect relationships

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## Day 2 Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain the purpose and impact of the Royal Proclamation of 1763
- Analyze colonial reactions to British rules
- Apply historical understanding through writing and a Super Cloze Series

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## Materials

- PowerPoint: *Effects of the French and Indian War*
- Article: *Effects of the French and Indian War*
- Article: *Pontiac's Rebellion*
- Article: *The Royal Proclamation of 1763*
- Reading Comprehension: *Pontiac's Rebellion*
- Writing Prompt: “*The Worst Rule Ever*”
- Student devices or notebooks

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# DAY 1: THE WAR ENDS — PROBLEMS BEGIN

## Day 1 Structure

- PowerPoint with teacher script – 20 minutes
- Article reading & comprehension – 25–30 minutes
- Wrap-up discussion – 5–10 minutes

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# Day 1 – PowerPoint With Teacher Script (20 Minutes)

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

## Slide 1 – Effects of the French and Indian War

### Teacher Script:

“The war ended in 1763, but instead of peace, it created new problems. Today we’ll look at how Britain’s victory changed life for colonists and Native Americans—and why those changes caused tension.”

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## Slide 2 – Britain Gains New Territory

### Teacher Script:

“After the war, Britain gained Canada and land east of the Mississippi River. France lost most of its North American territory. Britain became the most powerful empire in North America—but power came with responsibility and cost.”

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## Slide 3 – Debt and Financial Problems

### Teacher Script:

“Winning the war was expensive. Britain was deeply in debt and needed to pay soldiers, forts, and supplies. British leaders believed the colonies should help pay for the war that protected them.”

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## Slide 4 – New Taxes on the Colonies

### Teacher Script:

“To raise money, Britain began taxing the colonies. Many colonists felt this was unfair because they had no representatives in Parliament. This disagreement over money and power would grow stronger.”

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## Slide 5 – The Royal Proclamation of 1763

### Teacher Script:

“The Royal Proclamation of 1763 banned colonists from settling west of the Appalachian Mountains. Britain hoped this would reduce conflict and save money—but colonists were furious.”

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## Slide 6 – Why Britain Issued the Proclamation

**Teacher Script:**

“Britain wanted to avoid more wars with Native Americans, protect troops, and control westward expansion. From Britain’s point of view, the rule made sense—but colonists saw it very differently.”

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**Slide 7 – Pontiac’s Rebellion****Teacher Script:**

“Pontiac’s Rebellion was a Native American uprising against British forts and settlers after the war. Native nations were angry about British treatment and broken promises.”

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**Slide 8 – Impact of Pontiac’s Rebellion****Teacher Script:**

“The rebellion showed Britain that Native resistance was strong. It directly influenced the Royal Proclamation of 1763. Britain realized controlling western land would not be easy.”

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**Slide 9 – Colonial Reactions****Teacher Script:**

“Colonists felt betrayed. Many ignored the Proclamation Line and moved west anyway. Trust between Britain and the colonies began to fall apart.”

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**Slide 10 – Why the War’s Effects Matter****Teacher Script:**

“The effects of the French and Indian War changed relationships forever. Debt, land disputes, Native resistance, and anger toward Britain all helped push the colonies toward revolution.”

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**Day 1 – Article Reading & Comprehension (25–30 Minutes)****Article**

*Effects of the French and Indian War*

<https://learnaboutamerica.com/american-history/french-and-indian-war/causes-and-effects>

Read only the EFFECTS portion of the article aloud to students while they annotate. It is a short passage that reinforces the information on the Power Point presentation. Reinforce the notion that some of the EFFECTS of the French and Indian War were really the initial CAUSES of the Revolutionary War.

In general, the French and Indian War is taught to students in grades 6 and up, so there is less differentiation in the literacy activities for students.

[Effects of the French and Indian War Online or Printable Reading Comprehension](#) - Lexile 850 or 1050

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## Day 1 Wrap-Up (5–10 Minutes)

### Discussion Questions:

- Which effect of the war caused the most tension?
- Why do you think winning the war caused more problems than it solved?

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## DAY 2: RULES, RESISTANCE, AND REACTION

### Day 2 Structure

- Pontiac's Rebellion reading & comprehension – 20 minutes
- Royal Proclamation Super Cloze – 20 minutes
- Writing prompt – 20–25 minutes

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# Day 2 – Two Serious Effects of the French and Indian War: The Royal Proclamation of 1763 and Pontiac’s Rebellion

## The Royal Proclamation of 1763 (article and writing - 30 minutes)

Start the lesson by defining the term “proclamation.” Then, direct students to the article on the Royal Proclamation of 1763. You can read aloud while students annotate, or, you can have them read it to themselves, or, break into pairs.

Ask for reactions to the new law. Was it reasonable? How could it have weighed the interests of both the Native peoples and the colonists in a more balanced way?

Now, distribute the “Worst Rule Ever” activity and have students write independently. This is a great way for students to reflect about how many of the colonists felt by relating to situations in their own lives. Allow students to share these when complete. They will have fun reading, listening, and relating to these.

<https://learnaboutamerica.com/american-history/13-colonies/13-colonies-writing-activities/the-worst-rule-ever>

To the American colonists, the Royal Proclamation of 1763 must have seemed like the worst rule ever. In the aftermath of the French and Indian War, the proclamation prohibited colonial settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains. All land claims made by colonists or by colonies were eliminated. Parliament claimed the proclamation was made to prevent encroachment on native lands and to protect White settlers from attacks. The colonists countered that the free settlement of the land was the entire point of the French and Indian War. Many simply ignored the Royal Proclamation of 1763 and settled land anyway. In the spirit of the colonial response to the Royal Proclamation of 1763, what is the worst rule that you have ever had to follow, or, that someone has tried to make you follow? Why was it so bad? If you can’t think of a time you had to follow a terrible rule, think of one you’ve read about in literature or seen in the movies.

## Pontiac’s Rebellion (article and literacy activity)

<https://learnaboutamerica.com/american-history/13-colonies/events-of-the-13-colonies/pontiacs-rebellion>

Start the lesson by defining the term “rebellion” and indicate to students it’s a word they’re going to become quite familiar with as we traverse through United States history. Then, direct students to the article on Pontiac’s Rebellion. Before the reading of the article, review the terms in the glossary at the bottom of the page. Then, you can read aloud while students annotate, or, you can have them read it to themselves, or, break into pairs. When the reading is over, present the discussion questions as a whole-class activity, or, in small groups.

Direct students to the Pontiac’s Rebellion reading comprehension activity. There is an online or printable version available (see links below). The Lexile level is approximately 1000. Allow students about 15 minutes to complete and then review the answers.

[Printable](#) | [Online](#)

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## Final Wrap-Up Discussion

- Was the Royal Proclamation fair or unfair? Why?
- Could Britain have handled things differently?
- How did the effects of this war lead toward revolution?