

# The French and Indian War and the Fort Loudoun Massacre

*Essential Question: What were the causes and consequences of the French and Indian war including the Fort Loudoun Massacre?*

Britain and France competed for land and resources in North America throughout the 1600's and early 1700's. Both nations wanted access to valuable natural resources especially furs. In Europe, furs and skins were used for making clothing, hats and other items. Beaver fur was especially valuable because it was waterproof. The British claimed land along the North American coast and along Hudson's Bay. The French claimed the lands along the St. Lawrence River, Great Lakes and Mississippi River.

As both nations expanded their settlements in the Ohio River Valley, conflict resulted. In 1755, British General Braddock was defeated by a combination of French and Native American troops while attempting to reach Fort Duquesne. This led the British to declare war on France in 1756. The fighting that took place in North America was known as the French and Indian War.

During the French and Indian War (1754-1763) both the British and the French depended on their Native American allies to help them fight in North America. This was especially important as the two nations were also fighting in Europe, Cuba, the West Indies, India and the Philippines at the same time. The larger conflict between the nations is known as the Seven Years' War.

Frontier warfare between settlers and Native Americans led to increased anger toward all Native Americans. Despite seeking Native American tribes as allies, the British misunderstood Native American culture, looked on Native Americans as uncivilized and often treated their allies poorly. The Cherokee had been strong allies of the British in the years leading up to the French and Indian War. The Cherokee traded deerskins and other items for guns and manufactured goods from Britain. However, a number of events during the French and Indian War led to a break down in the alliance between the Cherokee and British.

In 1756, the British began to build Fort Loudoun near the Cherokee town of Chota. The Cherokee were pleased to have the fort as protection against attacks from the French and their Native American allies. However, fighting broke out as more and more settlers crossed the mountains into Cherokee territory and competed with the Cherokee for deer and other wild game.

When a group of 38 Cherokee leaders traveled to South Carolina in 1759 to seek peace with the British governor, he had them taken captive. This action angered all the Cherokee even those such as Attakullakulla or Little Carpenter who had strongly supported the British. Attakullakulla arranged the release of the three most prominent captives including the war leader Oconostota by agreeing to turn over the Cherokee who had killed white settlers. When Fort Prince George's

commander Richard Coytmore refused to release the remaining prisoners, Oconostota's warriors killed him. In revenge, the soldiers in the fort killed the remaining Cherokee prisoners.

After the deaths of the Cherokee prisoners, the Cherokee surrounded Fort Loudoun and cut off the soldiers' supply of food. On August 7, 1760 Captain Paul Demere' surrendered to the Cherokee at Chota. In the surrender agreement the Cherokee promised to allow the soldiers and their families to leave in peace as long as they left their cannons and ammunition. However, the British tried to hide the cannons and ammunition before leaving the fort. This angered the Cherokee who then attacked the retreating soldiers on August 10, 1760. The Cherokee killed 23 soldiers and 3 women and took 120 people hostage. In Cherokee culture, the kin of a person who had been killed had a right and an obligation to seek blood vengeance by killing a member of the killer's clan. Therefore, the Cherokee viewed the massacre as justified since the British had killed Cherokee prisoners at the fort and had not kept the terms of the surrender.

By this point, the British had won several important victories against the French in the north including capturing Quebec, the French capital. This allowed the British to focus on the Cherokee. The British sent 2,600 troops into Cherokee territory where they destroyed 15 towns along with the Cherokee's food supply for winter. By 1762, the Cherokee surrendered and peace was restored, but hard feelings lingered on both sides.

In 1763, the war between Britain and France officially ended with the Treaty of Paris. As a result of the French and Indian War, France lost all its territories in North America except for a few islands in the Caribbean. Spain gave Florida to the British, but gained the French lands west of the Mississippi River. Britain gained all of France's lands east of the Mississippi river. As a result, France no longer had power in North America. Native Americans who had sided with the French feared how they would be treated by the British. After years of fighting France, the British found themselves victorious and deeply in debt. The British knew that continued warfare with Native Americans would further increase the debt. Therefore, the British issued the Proclamation of 1763 which said that no British subject could settle west of the Appalachian Mountains. Many settlers simply ignored the law and continued to move west.

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Using information from the reading, complete the timeline below. Some of the information has been added for you

