

Source Set 4 Fort Loudoun

Essential Question:

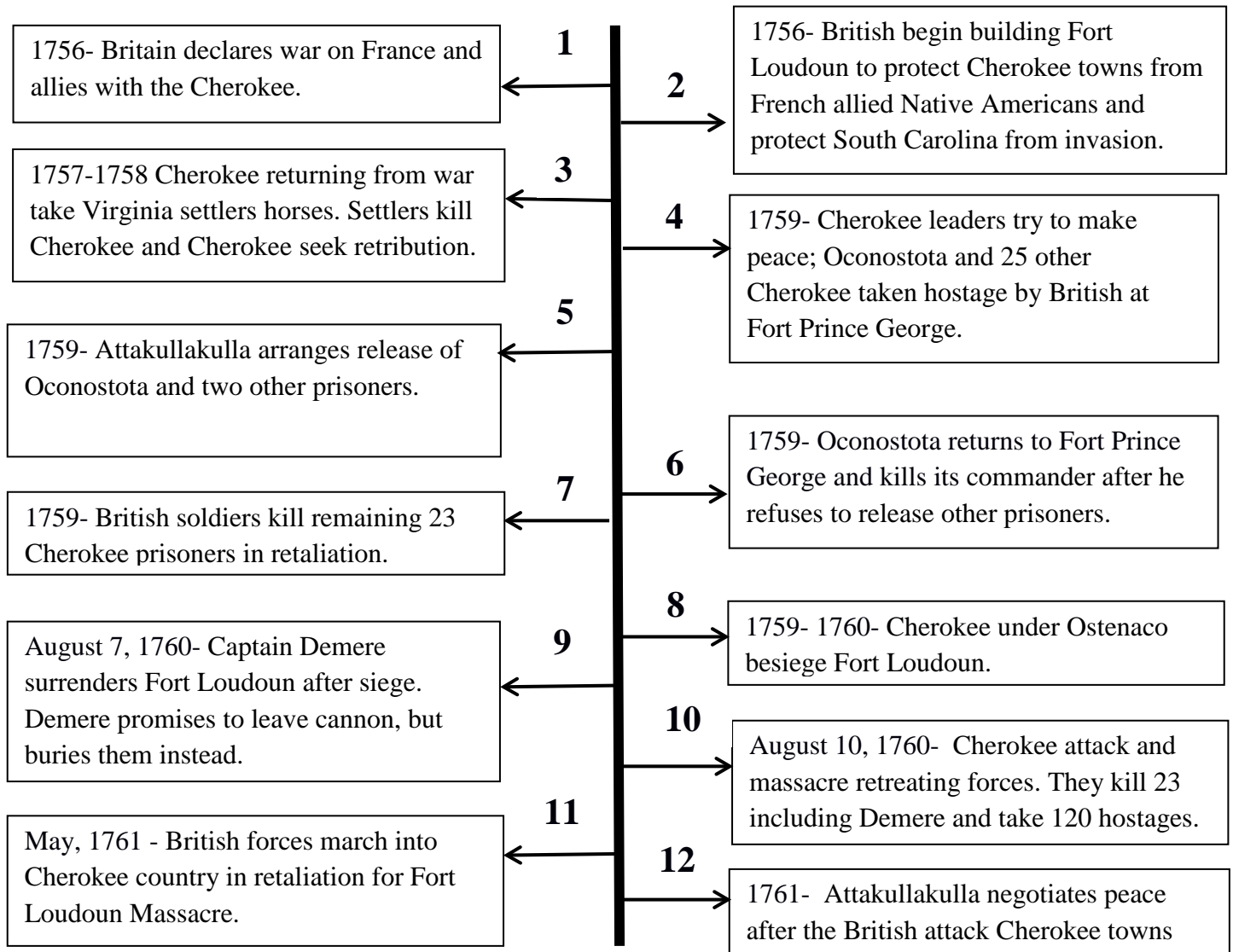
What do these sources reveal about the relationship between the British and Cherokee in the 1700's?

1. Determine if your sources are primary or secondary.
2. Read Ramsey's account of the Fort Loudoun Massacre.
3. Identify any locations mentioned in the account on the map.
4. Compare Ramsey's account with the timeline. Are there any differences?
5. Be prepared to share your answer to the essential question.

The Fort Loudoun Massacre

Long-term Causes

1. British sought Native American allies in conflict with France
2. The British did not understand Cherokee culture and believed themselves to be superior to the Cherokee.



Long-term Effects

1. Fort Loudoun is abandoned.
2. The British issue the Proclamation of 1763 forbidding settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains.
3. Fighting between the Cherokee and British settlers continues.

THE
ANNALS
OF
TENNESSEE
TO THE
END OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY:
COMPRISING ITS SETTLEMENT,
AS
THE WATAUGA ASSOCIATION,
~~FROM 1755 TO 1777~~
A PART OF NORTH-CAROLINA,
FROM 1777 TO 1784;
THE STATE OF FRANKLIN,
FROM 1784 TO 1788;
A PART OF NORTH-CAROLINA,
FROM 1788 TO 1796;
THE TERRITORY OF THE U. STATES, SOUTH OF THE OHIO,
FROM 1796 TO 1796;
THE STATE OF TENNESSEE,
FROM 1796 TO 1800.

BY

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CHARLESTON:

JOHN RUSSELL, 256 KING-STREET.

1853.

Prompt measures were adopted to restrain and punish these excesses. Application was made to the neighbouring provinces, North-Carolina and Virginia, for assistance, and seven troops of rangers were raised to patrol the frontiers, and the best preparation possible was made for chastising the enemy, so soon as the regulars coming from the north should arrive. Before the end of April, 1760, Colonel Montgomery landed with his troops, and, being joined by several volunteer companies, hastened to the rendezvous at Congarees, where he was met by the whole strength of the province, and immediately set out for the Cherokee country. His march was spirited and expeditious. Little Keowee was surprised by a night attack, and every warrior in it put to the sword. Estatoe was reduced to ashes. Sugaw Town, and every other settlement in the lower nation, suffered the same fate.

“Montgomery, after the loss of but four men, advanced to the relief of Fort Prince George, which had been for some time invested by the savages. From this place a message was sent to the Middle Settlements, inviting the Cherokees to sue for peace, and also to Captains Demerè and Stuart, the commanding officers at Fort Loudon, requesting them to obtain peace with the Upper Towns. Finding the enemy not disposed to listen to terms of accommodation, he determined to penetrate through the dismal wilderness between him and the Middle Towns.” * * * “Captain Morrison’s rangers had scarcely entered the valley near Etchoe, when the savages sprang from their lurking den, fired upon and killed the captain, and wounded a number of his men. A heavy fire began on both sides. The battle continued above an hour. Colonel Montgomery lost in the engagement twenty men, and had seventy-six wounded. The Indians, it is believed, lost more. But the repulse was far from being decisive, and Colonel Montgomery, finding it impracticable to penetrate the woods further with his wounded men, returned to Fort Prince George with his army, and soon after departed for New-York.

“In the meantime, the distant garrison of Fort Loudon, consisting of two hundred men, was reduced to the dreadful alternative of perishing by hunger or submitting to the mercy of the enraged Cherokees. The Governor of South-Carolina hearing that the Virginians had undertaken to relieve it, for a while seemed satisfied, and anxiously waited to hear the news of that happy event. But they, like the Carolinians, were unable to send them assistance. So remote was the fort from any settlement, and so difficult was it to march an army through the barren wilderness, where every thicket concealed an enemy, and to carry, at the same time, sufficient supplies along with them, that the Virginians had

dropped all thoughts of the attempt. Provisions being entirely exhausted at Fort Loudon, the garrison was upon the point of starving. For a whole month they had no other subsistence than the flesh of lean horses and dogs, and a small supply of Indian beans, procured stealthily for them by some friendly Cherokee women. The officers had long endeavoured to animate and encourage the men with the hope of succour; but now, being blockaded night and day by the enemy, and having no resource left, they threatened to leave the fort, and die at once by the hands of savages, rather than perish slowly by famine. In this extremity, the commander was obliged to call a council of war to consider what was proper to be done; when the officers were all of opinion, that it was impossible to hold out longer, and therefore agreed to surrender the fort to the Cherokees, on the best terms that could be obtained from them. For this purpose Captain Stuart, an officer of great sagacity and address, and much beloved by those of the Indians who remained in the British interest, procured leave to go to Chota, one of the principal towns in the neighbourhood, where he obtained the following terms of capitulation, which were signed by the commanding officer and two of the Cherokee chiefs. 'That the garrison of Fort Loudon march out with their arms and drums, each soldier having as much powder and ball as their officer shall think necessary for the march, and all the baggage they may choose to carry; that the garrison be permitted to march to Virginia or Fort Prince George, as the commanding officer shall think proper, unmolested; and that a number of Indians be appointed to escort them, and hunt for provisions during the march; that such soldiers as are lame, or by sickness disabled from marching, be received into the Indian towns, and kindly used until they recover, and then be allowed to return to Fort Prince George; that the Indians do provide for the garrison as many horses as they conveniently can for their march, agreeing with the officers and soldiers for payment; that the fort, great guns, powder, ball and spare arms, be delivered to the Indians without fraud or further delay, on the day appointed for the march of the troops.'*

"Agreeable to this stipulation, the garrison delivered up the fort, and marched out with their arms, accompanied by Oconostota, Judd's friend, the prince of Chota, and several other Indians, and that day went

* Great guns. Of these there were twelve. It is difficult to conceive how the cannon of Fort Loudon, in 1758, had been transported to a point so interior and inaccessible. A wagon had not then passed the head of Holston, and not till the autumn of 1776 had one come as low down that stream as the Long Island, with provisions for the supply of Fort Patrick Henry. Artillery could not have been brought down the Ohio and up the Tennessee, for after the loss of Du Quesne the French still held undisturbed possession of the rivers below. The cannon at Loudon were most probably taken there across the mountain from Augusta or Fort Prince George when reinforcements were sent to its relief. In this case the transportation of the great guns must have been made along a narrow mountain trace upon pack horses—requiring in the more difficult gorges even yet found in the intervening country, the assistance of the soldiers. It is barely possible that these cannon may have been brought from Fort Lewis or Fort Chissel, to the head waters of Holston, and carried down that stream, and up the Little Tennessee to Loudon. There is no tradition on the subject in Tennessee.

fifteen miles on their way to Fort Prince George. At night they encamped upon a plain about two miles from Taliquo, an Indian town, when all their attendants, upon one pretence or another, left them; which the officers considered as no good sign, and therefore placed a strict guard around their camp. During the night they remained unmolested, but next morning about break of day, a soldier from an outpost came running in, and informed them that he saw a vast number of Indians, armed and painted in the most dreadful manner, creeping among the bushes, and advancing in order to surround them. Scarcely had the officer time to order his men to stand to their arms, when the savages poured in upon them a heavy fire from different quarters, accompanied with the most hideous yells, which struck a panic into the soldiers, who were so much enfeebled and dispirited that they were incapable of making any effectual resistance. Captain Demerè, with three other officers, and about twenty-six privates, fell at the first onset. Some fled into the woods, and were afterwards taken prisoners and confined among the towns in the valley. Captain Stuart and those that remained, were seized, pinioned, and brought back to Fort Loudon. No sooner had Ahtakullakulla heard that his friend Mr. Stuart had escaped, than he hastened to the fort, and purchased him from the Indian that took him, giving him his rifle, clothes, and all he could command by way of ransom. He then took possession of Captain Demerè's house, where he kept his prisoner as one of his family, and freely shared with him the little provisions his table afforded, until a fair opportunity should offer for rescuing him from the hands of the savages; but the poor soldiers were kept in a miserable state of captivity for some time, and then redeemed by the province at great expense.

"While the prisoners were confined at Fort Loudon, Oconostota formed the design of attacking Fort Prince George. To this bold undertaking he was the more encouraged, as the cannon and ammunition surrendered by the garrison would, under the direction of French officers who were near him, secure its success. Messengers were therefore dispatched to the valley towns, requesting their warriors to meet him at Stickoee.

"By accident a discovery was made of ten bags of powder, and a large quantity of ball that had been secretly buried in the fort, to prevent their falling into the enemy's hands. This discovery had nearly proved fatal to Captain Stuart; but the interpreter had such presence of mind as to assure the incensed savages that these warlike stores were concealed without Stuart's knowledge or consent. The supply of ammunition being sufficient for the siege, a council was held at Chota, to which the captive Stuart was taken. Here he was reminded of the obligations he was under for having his life spared, and as they had determined to take six cannon and two cohorns against Prince George, the Indians told him he must accompany the expedition—manage the artillery and write such letters to the commandant as they should dictate to him. They further informed him that if that officer should refuse to surrender, they had determined to burn the prisoners one by one before his face, and try whether he could be so obstinate as to hold out while his friends were expiring in the flames.

“Captain Stuart was much alarmed at his present situation, and from that moment resolved to make his escape or perish in the attempt. He privately communicated his design to Attakullakulla and told him that the thought of bearing arms against his countrymen harrowed his feelings, and he invoked his assistance to accomplish his release. The old warrior took him by the hand—told him he was his friend, and was fully apprised of the designs of his countrymen, and pledged his efforts to deliver him from danger. Attakullakulla claimed Captain Stuart as his prisoner, and resorted to stratagem to rescue him. He told the other Indians that he intended to go a hunting for a few days, and to take his prisoner with him. Accordingly they departed, accompanied by the warrior’s wife, his brother and two soldiers. The distance to the frontier settlements was great, and the utmost expedition was necessary to prevent surprise from Indians pursuing them. Nine days and nights did they travel through a dreary wilderness, shaping their course by the sun and moon for Virginia. On the tenth they arrived at the banks of Holston’s river, where they fortunately fell in with a party of three hundred men, sent out by Colonel Bird for the relief of Fort Loudon. On the fourteenth day the captain reached Colonel Bird’s camp on the frontiers of Virginia. His faithful friend, Attakullakulla, was here loaded with presents and provisions, and sent back to protect the unhappy prisoners till they should be ransomed, and to exert his influence with the Cherokees for the restoration of peace.”

After Captain Stuart’s escape, he lost no time in concerting measures of relief to his garrison. An express was at once forwarded to the Governor of South-Carolina to inform him of the disaster at Fort Loudon, and of the designs of the enemy against Fort Prince George. The prisoners that had survived the hardships of hunger, disease and captivity, at Loudon, were ransomed and delivered up to the commanding officer at Fort Prince George.

This account of the siege and capitulation of Fort Loudon, and of the attack upon the retiring garrison, has been copied or condensed from “Hewitt’s Historical Account of South-Carolina and Georgia,” as republished in the valuable historical collection of Carroll. Being written in 1779, soon after the transactions which it relates took place, Hewitt’s work is considered authentic, and may be fully relied on as being generally correct. Still in some of the details other historians differ from him. One of them gives another version of the assault upon the camp the morning after the evacuation of the fort. Haywood says: “At this place, about day-break, the Indians fell upon and destroyed the whole troop, men, women and children, except three men,