

The Road to Revolution

A Presentation Based on the
Georgia Standards of Excellence
(GSE) Objectives for High School
History Students

Georgia Standards of Excellence

**SSUSH3 Analyze the causes of the
American Revolution.**

- a. Explain how the French and Indian War and the 1763 Treaty of Paris laid the groundwork for the American Revolution.**

Video

The French and Indian War

<<https://app.discoveryeducation.com/learn/videos/d0520a77-18ec-400b-afa5-cc2ede795add?hasLocalHost=false>>

French and Indian War (1754-1763)

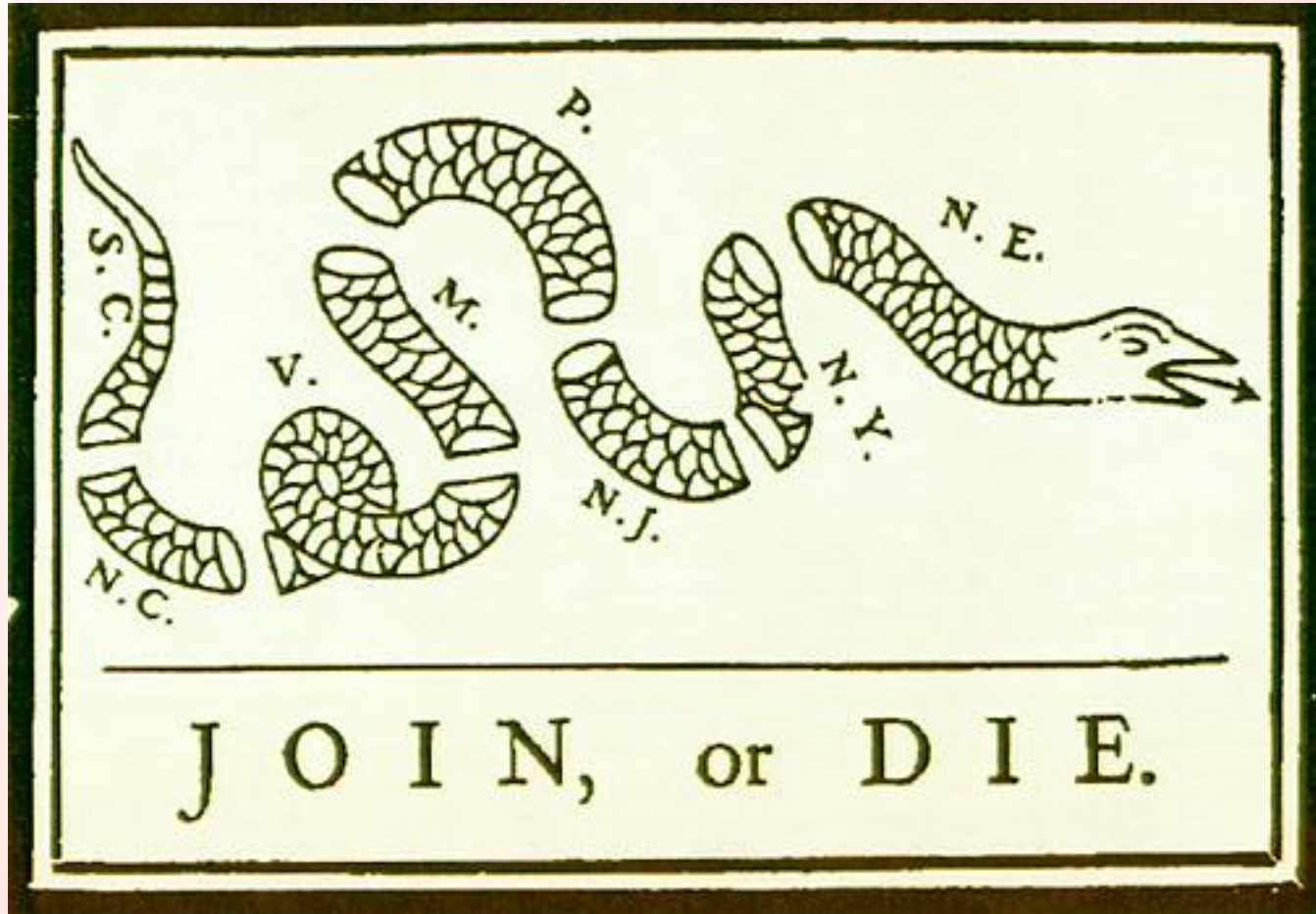
- The French and Indian War was the American phase of the Seven Years War, a European war that began in America in 1754 when British and French began fighting over the Ohio River Valley.
- The Ohio River Valley region was important for transportation, farming, and fur trapping.



Albany Plan of Union

- In a 1754 conference of seven colonies' delegates at Albany, NY, Benjamin Franklin proposed that the colonies band together in a confederacy designed for the common defense.
- Although the delegates approved the plan, colonial assemblies voted it down and it never went into effect.
- It is important, however, as a first effort at banding the British colonies into a united government.

Franklin's First Political Cartoon (1754)

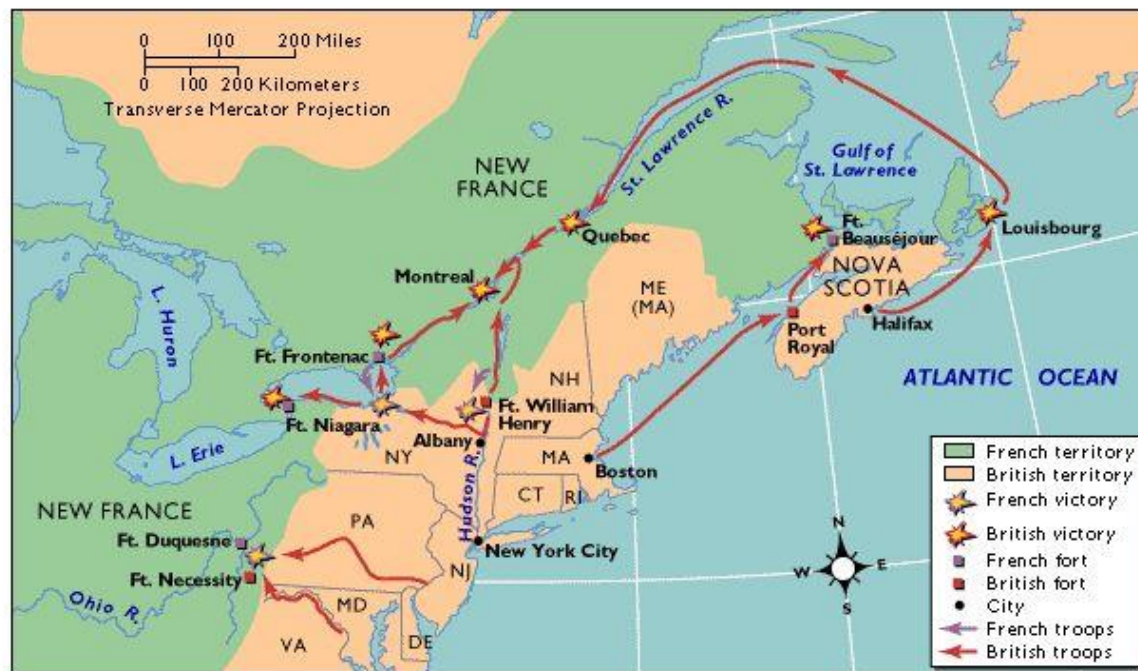


1. What's going on in this drawing?
2. What do you see that makes you say that?
3. What more can we find?
4. What do you think this cartoon was supporting? Why?

French and Indian War

- The English recruited colonial militias to help fight the French.
- George Washington was a Lt. Colonel for the British.
- Britain defeated France in the early 1760s.

French and Indian War, 1754–1763



1763 Treaty of Paris

- The war officially ended in 1763 with the signing of the Treaty of Paris. The treaty terms included:
 1. New France (Canada) and all territory east of the Mississippi River was ceded to England
 2. To regain Cuba and the Philippine Islands, Spain gave Florida to the British

Note: In a separate treaty, France gave Spain New Orleans and all French territory west of the Mississippi River to compensate Spain for its losses,
- The 1763 Treaty of Paris all but eliminated French power in North America.
- To pay for the war, the British began taxing the American colonies (e.g., with the Stamp Act).

(How do you think many of the colonists felt about the British making them pay for the war?)

- b. Explain colonial response to the Proclamation of 1763, the Stamp Act, and the Intolerable Acts as seen in the Sons and Daughters of Liberty and the Committees of Correspondence.

British Acts and Actions

- From 1763 through the beginning of the American Revolutionary War, the British government issued a number of decrees, acts and taxes designed partly to keep peace, partly to defray costs of their frequent wars, and, in some cases, to punish the colonists for rebellious activities.
- In every instance, the colonists reacted with petitions, protests, boycotts, and/or rebellious activities.

Proclamation of 1763

- To keep peace with western Indian tribes, Britain issued the **Proclamation of 1763**.
- This act prohibited colonists from settling west of the Appalachian Mountains.
- The British did this to avoid the costs of protecting western colonial farmers from Indian attacks.
- The act upset colonists who wanted to settle in the West and speculators who hoped to profit from land sales.



British Actions and Colonial Responses

Stamp Act (1765): a British tax on most printed material, this was the first direct tax on the colonies.

The Sons of Liberty (1765) organized protest meetings and intimidated tax collectors; this led to the formation of the Stamp Act Congress which sent a petition to King George.

The Daughters of Liberty promoted wearing “homespun.”

The Daughters of Liberty and the Sons of Liberty both organized effective boycotts of British goods.

As a result of colonists’ reactions, the British repealed the Stamp Act in 1766.





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Tea Act (1773)

- **British Act:** To give the British East India Company an advantage over the Dutch in selling tea, this act changed the law so the British company could pay the Townshend duty and still undersell its competitors.
- **Colonial Reactions:**
 - As a new direct tax, this became a symbol of tyranny to colonists. Colonial resistance culminated in the **Boston Tea Party** (December 1773) and a similar action in New York (April 1774).
 - At Thomas Jefferson's suggestion, **Committees of Correspondence** formed for inter-colonial communication regarding British activities. These *communiqués* shaped public opinion and organized resistance to British rule.

British Actions and Colonial Responses (continued)

- The Intolerable Acts (1774) were several laws intended to punish Massachusetts, where the majority of the boycotts against the British were taking place. These acts:
 - Shut down the port of Boston
 - Limited colonial voting rights
 - Limited the power of colonial courts
 - Forced the colony to house British soldiers
- Colonists reacted by forming **Committees of Correspondences** to increase communication between colonies and help them unify against the British.

- c. Explain the importance of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* to the movement for independence.

The Revolutionary “Fever”

- A major grievance of American colonists was that they considered themselves British citizens but were not treated as such by the British government.
- The phrase “no taxation without representation” reflected colonists’ recognition that Parliament invoked laws and taxes on the colonies without their consent.
- Historians have noted that the idea of revolution became more and more attractive to colonists with each new infringement on their rights, and the idea of revolution eventually spread like a “fever.”
- Colonists communicated their ideas among themselves in newspapers as well as “pamphlets” (short booklets).
- Most notable among these pamphlets was Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense*.

Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*

- Published in 1776
- A persuasive pamphlet that blamed King George III instead of Parliament for punishing the colonies
- Convinced many colonists the time had come to declare independence from England
- Helped to persuade the Continental Congress to issue the Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776)

