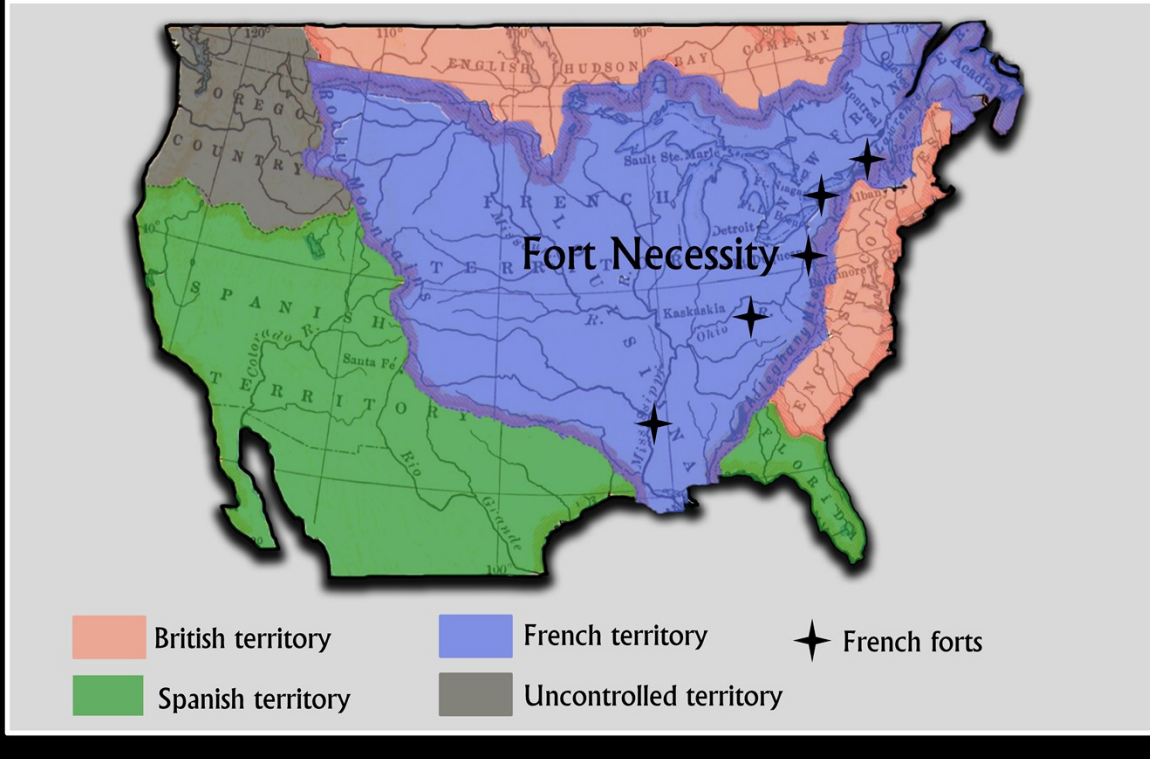




The French and Indian War

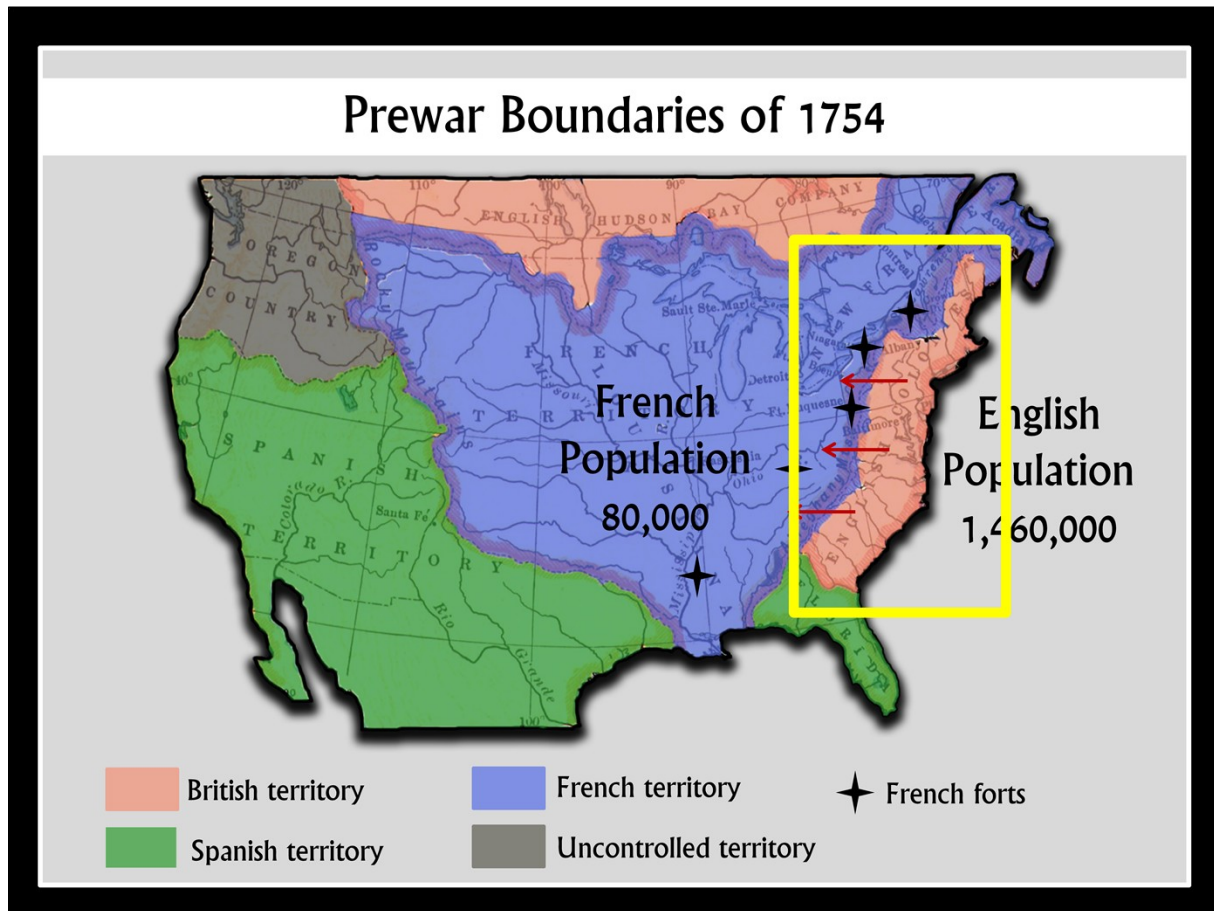
**Module 2: The American Revolution – 1750s to the 1780s**  
**Topic 1 Content: The French and Indian War**

### Prewar Boundaries of 1754



In 1754, the French controlled some land in Canada, the territory west of the Appalachian Mountains, and parts of Louisiana located on the Gulf of Mexico. The French wanted to connect their territories in Canada with the territory in Louisiana. In an effort to connect these two territories, the French began building forts throughout the Ohio River Valley. These forts also served as trading posts.

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At the same time as the French were expanding, the British controlled the thirteen colonies along the Atlantic seaboard. The population of the British colonies was growing rapidly. In fact, the British population greatly outnumbered the French population. A census conducted in 1754 indicated around 80,000 French colonists while the British population was 1,460,000. With a large population along the coast, the British began to spread into the interior of North America. The British saw an opportunity for growth in the lands of the Ohio River Valley.

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England and France were longstanding enemies and competitors.

The English were spreading into territory they did not control.

A conflict broke out as both sides were attempting to claim territory in North America.

The countries of England and France were longstanding enemies and competitors, and had fought many wars in the past one hundred years. The English were spreading into French controlled territory believing that they controlled the territory. Since both sides wanted to expand and claim territory in North America, it was only a matter of time before conflict broke out between these two empires.

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French and Indian War began in May, 1754.

Washington spotted an attack of Fort Necessity and attacked first.

A month later the British returned and took over control of the Fort.



The French and Indian War began in May of 1754. In May, George Washington was leading a group of Virginia soldiers in the Ohio River Valley and spotted a scouting party of French soldiers. Fearing an attack, Washington struck first. Later in July, the French sent a larger force which attacked and captured Washington and his soldiers. Washington was forced to surrender. These battles marked the beginning of the French and Indian War.



**Module 2: The American Revolution – 1750s to the 1780s**  
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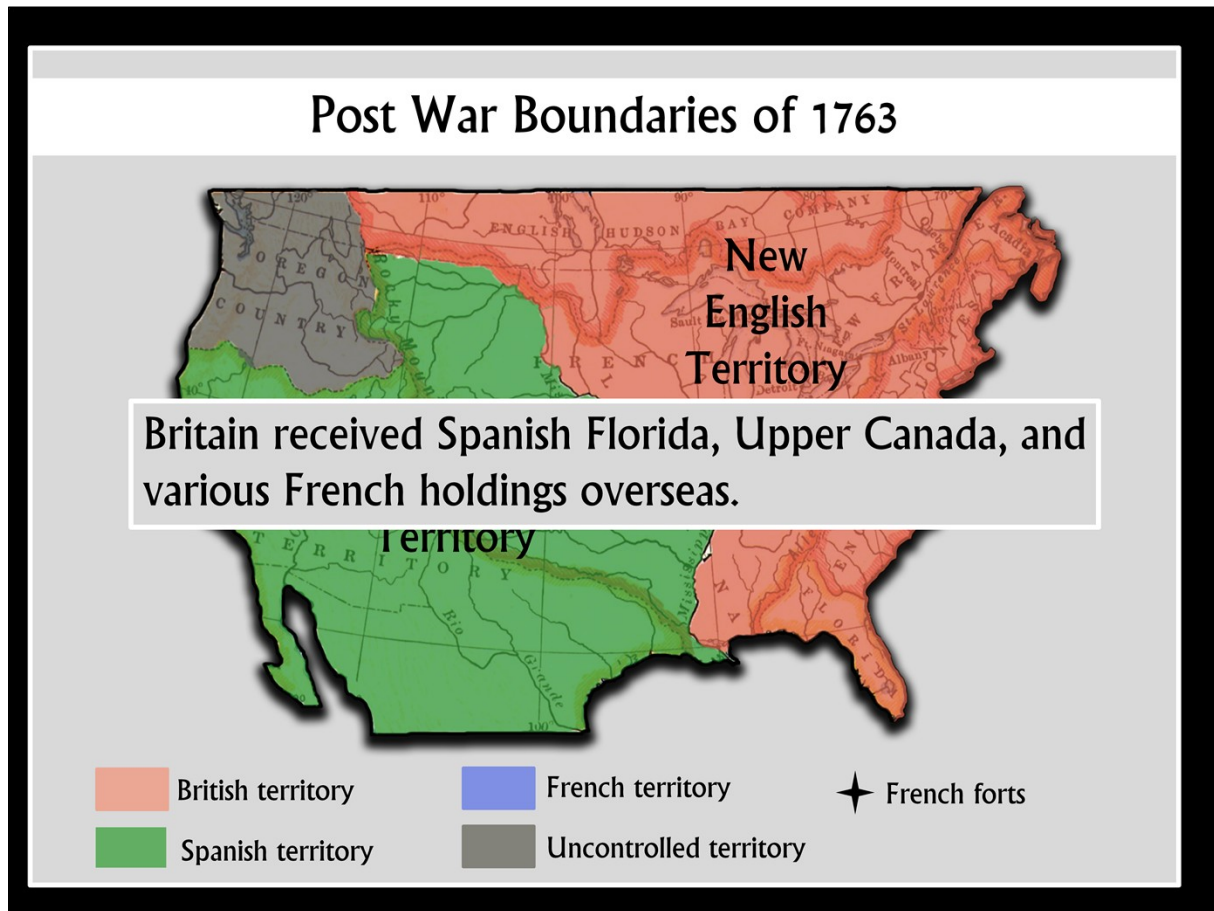
French and Indian War was also known as the Seven Years War.

Both the British and French used the Native Americans in their armies.

Disease and weakened, the Native Americans signed treaties with the British.

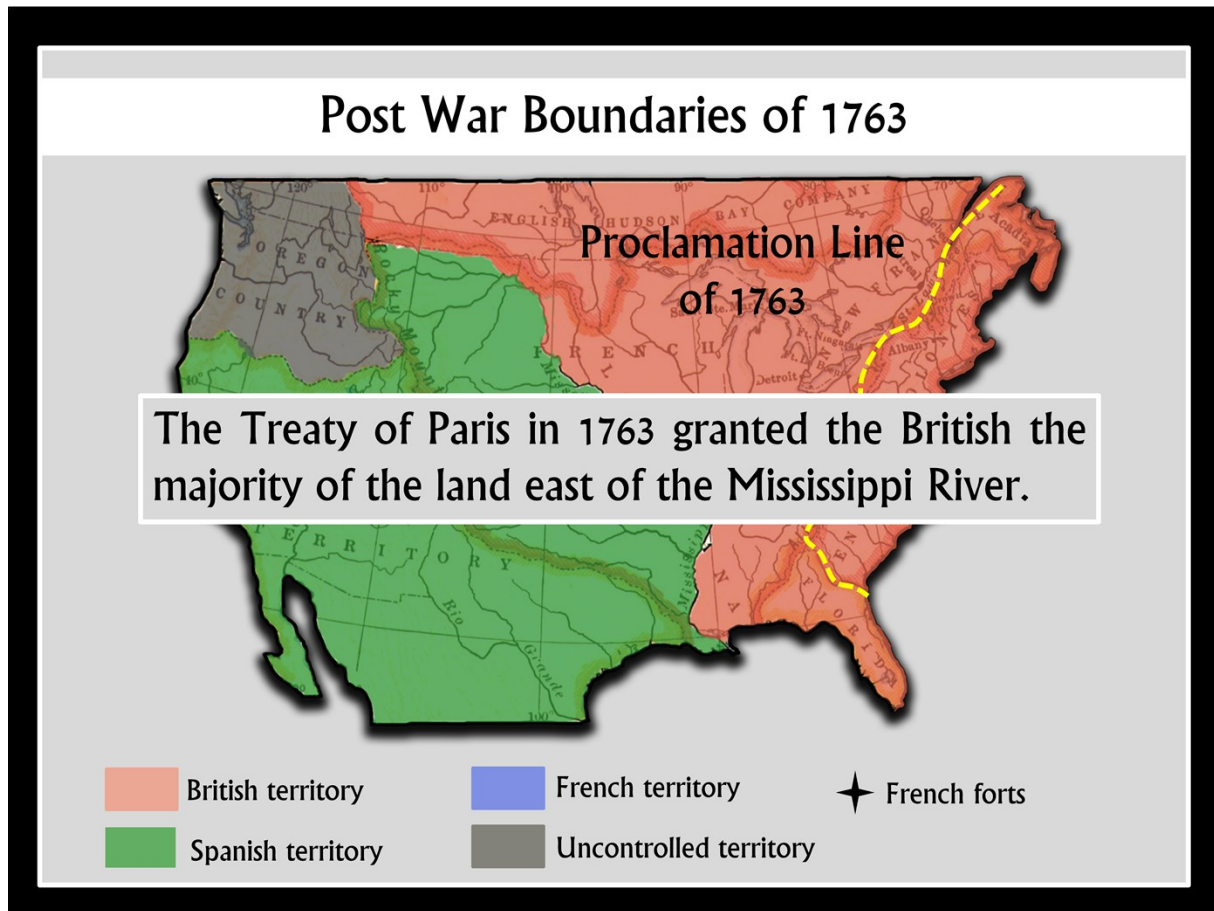
Also known as the Seven Years War, it began when colonist soldiers from Virginia, under the command of George Washington, attacked a small group of French soldiers, as both groups tried to control the land of the Ohio River Valley. Both countries allied themselves with Native Americans, and used Native American warriors in their armies. The French, however, made greater use of the Native American warriors because they had stronger trading relationships and they lacked the military manpower of the British. In the end, the Native Americans had captured eight British forts in the Ohio River Valley. Suffering from small-pox, the weakened the Native American tribes were eventually forced to sign treaties with the British.

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The French and Indian War lasted until 1763. Even though it is called the Seven Years War, the war actually lasted nine years. The Seven Years War ended with the signing of the Treaty of Paris in February 1763. In the Treaty of Paris, France lost all claims to Canada and gave Louisiana to Spain, while Britain received Spanish Florida, Upper Canada, and various French holdings overseas. The treaty ensured the colonial and maritime supremacy of Britain and strengthened the thirteen American colonies by removing the French.

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The Treaty of Paris in 1763 granted the British the majority of the land east of the Mississippi. Fearing that the British would encroach upon their lands, Native Americans formed alliances in an attempt to protect their lands from the British. The British were already facing extremely large amounts of debt from the French and Indian War. In order to avoid any more expense protecting colonists from American Indian attacks, the British issued the Proclamation of 1763. This Proclamation forbade British colonists from living west of the Appalachian Mountains. This upset the British colonists, who were used to doing what they wanted. One of the very reasons that the French and Indian War started was the colonists' desire to move onto this land. This Proclamation convinced many colonists that Britain did not understand colonial life. Colonists preferred the earlier arrangement where the British largely ignored what they did. This increased activity of the British government in colonial affairs led to increased tension.



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Good News	Bad News
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Britain gained new land in North America.</li><li>• Britain gained the security of its North American colonies.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Britain acquired debt in the French and Indian War.</li><li>• Britain angered the Native American tribes.</li></ul>

English success in the French and Indian War was a “good news, bad news” situation. Take a moment to create a chart like the one shown. Create a table with the column headings, “Good News and Bad News.” Before the answers are revealed, try and come up with two positive aspects of the French and Indian War for the British or “Good News” and two negative aspects or “Bad News.”

Now, compare the list you just created with the positive and negative aspects of the French and Indian War for the British. The good news for the British Empire was that it gained new land in North America, and enhanced the security of its North American colonies from European attacks. The bad news was that England had acquired a lot of debt to pay for the war, and had made enemies of many of the Native American tribes. England’s attempts to address the bad news would anger many American colonists, and eventually lead to Revolution. A revolution where the bitter French would help the colonists to defeat the British.