

Analyze the French and Indian Wars and include the following:

1. What started the War (make sure you write the name of the conflict) ?
2. What were the dates of the conflict?
3. What countries were involved?
4. Were the North American colonists involved in the fighting?
5. Where in North America did most of the fighting take place?
6. What ended the conflict?
7. Did the peace last?

King William's War (1689-1697)

King William's War, 1689–97, a war between the English and French in North America. It was the first of the so-called Intercolonial Wars, in which England and France fought for domination in North America. It took its name from William III of England and was the American phase of the War of the Grand Alliance in Europe. The war began with a three-pronged attack by the French and their Indian allies on English colonial settlements. They raided Schenectady, New York; several villages along the Canadian border in New Hampshire and Maine; and settlements along the Maine coast. Many colonists were massacred by Indians.

Terror spread throughout the northern English colonies. The colonists first retaliated by sending a fleet, commanded by Sir William Phips, to attack the French fort of Port Royal, Acadia (now Nova Scotia), in 1690. After the capture of Port Royal, the English prepared a combined land and sea attack on Quebec, hoping to capture French Canada. When their army of 2,000 was scattered by the French, the fleet turned back. Both sides continued to make border raids, but without significant results.

The Treaty of Ryswick in 1697 returned Port Royal to the French. With the beginning of Queen Anne's War three years later, fighting was resumed.

Queen Anne's War (1702-1713)

Queen Anne's War (1702-1713), the second of the French and Indian Wars, began May 4, 1702. In Europe it was known as the War of the Spanish Succession. The Grand Alliance (England, the League of Augsburg, Denmark, Portugal, and the Netherlands) declared war on France and Spain to prevent union of the French and Spanish thrones following the death of King Charles II of Spain. In North America British and French colonial forces, with their Indian allies, raided and attempted to capture a number of border settlements. New England colonists successfully attacked the French settlements of Minas and Beaubassin in Nova Scotia in July 1704, while the French destroyed Deerfield, Massachusetts, in February and took the English colony of Bonavista on Newfoundland in August. The most notable colonial success was the British capture of Port Royal, Nova Scotia, on Oct. 16, 1710, following unsuccessful assaults in 1704 and 1707; however, a British naval attack on Quebec in 1711 failed. In the South, Carolina forces captured the town of St. Augustine, Florida, in September 1702, although the fort there held out. Another force wiped out all but one of fourteen missions in northwestern Florida in 1704.

Deerfield, a western outpost of Massachusetts, was attacked by a force of French and Indians, who massacred 50 men, women, and children and carried off over 100 more after burning the town to the ground. The raid was one of the bloodiest events of Queen Anne's War (1702-1713), the second of the French and Indian Wars.

Haverhill, Massachusetts was attacked and razed by the French and Indians.

Queen Anne's War was ended by the Treaty of Utrecht, which brought the War of Spanish Succession to a close in Europe. By the treaty France ceded the Hudson Bay territory, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia to Great Britain. France also agreed to a British protectorate over the Iroquois Indians. France kept Cape Breton Island and the islands of the St. Lawrence.

The Connecticut colony was only indirectly affected by Queen Anne's War.

King George's War (1744-1748)

King George's War was the third in a series of Anglo-French colonial conflicts in North America. Although nominally at peace, Britain and France had been in conflict over colonial boundaries in Acadia, northern New England, and the Ohio Valley. King George's War had been preceded by an outbreak of fighting in Europe. The death of Charles VI, the Holy Roman Emperor, had touched off a succession crisis that pitted France, Prussia and Spain against the British.

Warfare developed in the American colonies in 1744 when the French first learned on May 5, of the declarations of war on March 15, and attacked a British position at Canso, Nova Scotia, on May 13 destroying a fortification and transporting prisoners to the French stronghold at Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island. The French also attempted to recapture Port Royal (Annapolis Royal), but failed.

Hatred of the French was stronger in New England and New York than in the other colonies. Maritime interests felt especially imperiled by the French strength at Louisbourg, a base for privateers. In addition, many staunch New England Protestants harbored a natural antipathy toward the Roman Catholic French.

In 1745, a force of more than 4,000 men was raised under William Pepperrell, a wealthy merchant from Maine. Assigned the daunting task of taking Louisbourg, they would shortly assault what was regarded as the most secure position in North America. Sir Peter Warren and his naval contingent provided valuable assistance by preventing reinforcements from reaching the French fort. A two-month siege ended in June when British soldiers staged an heroic (and almost comic) raid on the fortress, forcing its capitulation. George II later rewarded Pepperrell with a baronetcy, the first American colonist so honored.

The French fared somewhat better on the western frontier, where their position at Crown Point on Lake Champlain was used as a staging area for Native American attacks on English settlements. Sir William Johnson responded by organizing the Iroquois to strike back against French positions. French counterstrikes fell against Saratoga and Albany in late 1745. Losses on both sides were extremely high, but no clear victor emerged from the fighting in the West.

In 1746, the French planned a great offensive that was intended first to retake Louisbourg, then move south for an attack on Boston. However, a major storm intervened, scattered the French fleet and ended their hopes for victory.

Peace was achieved with the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748. In return for receiving Madras in India, the British returned Louisbourg to the French, thus nullifying the greatest victory American forces had ever won. Anger in the colonies was so great that London responded by reimbursing the colonial governments for funds spent earlier on the Pepperrell campaign.

King George's War did not finally resolve the North American rivalry between France and Britain; that resolution would not occur for another 15 years.