



Road to Revolution: The French and Indian War Lesson Plan – Primary Sources

Introduction Activity

Benjamin Franklin to Lord Kames, 3 January 1760

No one can rejoice more sincerely than I do on the Reduction [defeat] of Canada' and this not merely as I am a Colonist, but as I am a Briton. I have long been of Opinion that the Foundations of the future Grandeur and Stability of the British Empire lie in America, and tho', like other Foundations, they are low and little seen, they are nevertheless broad and Strong enough to support the greatest Political Structure Human Wisdom ever yet erected.

Source: ““From Benjamin Franklin to Lord Kames, 3 January 1760,” *Founders Online*, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Franklin/01-09-02-0002>. [Original source: *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, vol. 9, January 1, 1760, through December 31, 1761, ed. Leonard W. Labaree. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1966, pp. 5–10.]

Benjamin Franklin to William Strahan, 5 July 1775

Mr. Strahan,

You are a Member of Parliament, and one of that Majority which has doomed my Country to Destruction. You have begun to burn our Towns, and murder our People. Look upon your Hands! They are stained with the Blood of your Relations! You and I were Friends: You are no my Enemy, and I am, Yours,

B. Franklin

Source: “From Benjamin Franklin to William Strahan, 5 July 1775,” *Founders Online*, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Franklin/01-22-02-0052>. [Original source: *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, vol. 22, March 23, 1775, through October 27, 1776, ed. William B. Willcox. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1982, p. 85.]



Road to Revolution: The French and Indian War Lesson Plan – Primary Sources

Primary Source Set 1

Excerpt, Dinwiddie's Proclamation of 1754

Virginia, SCT. By the Honourable Robert Dinwiddie, Esq'r his Majesty's Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of this Dominion.

A PROCLAMATION for encouraging men to enlist in his Majesty's service for the defence and security of this colony. WHEREAS it is determined that a Fort be immediately built on the River Ohio, at the Fork of Monogahela, to oppose any further encouragements, or hostile attempts of the French and the Indians in their interest, and for the security and protection of his majesty's subjects in his colony; and as it is absolutely necessary that a sufficient force should be raised to erect and support the same; for an encouragement to all who shall voluntarily enter into the said service, I do hereby notify and promise, by and with the advice and consent of his majesty's council of this colony, that over and above their pay, two hundred thousand acres, of his majesty the king of Great Britain's lands, on the east side of the river Ohio, within this dominion, (one hundred thousand acres whereof to be contiguous to the said fort, and the other hundred thousand acres to be on, or near the river Ohio) shall be laid off and granted to such persons, who by their voluntary engagement and good behaviour in the said service, shall deserve the same. And I further promise, that the said lands shall be divided amongst them, immediately after the performance of the said service in a proportion due to their respective merit...

19th day of February in the XXVIIth year of his Majesty's Reign, Annoque Domini 1754. ROBERT DINWIDDIE GOD SAVE THE KING

Source: "The Statutes at Large, Being a Collection of All the Laws in Virginia," Volume VIII, Edited by William Waller Hening, 1820, pp. 661-662.



Road to Revolution: The French and Indian War Lesson Plan – Primary Sources

Excerpt, Proclamation of 1763

And whereas it is just and reasonable, and essential to our Interest, and the Security of our Colonies, that the several Nations or Tribes of Indians with whom We are connected, and who live under our Protection, should not be molested or disturbed in the Possession of such Parts of Our Dominions and Territories We do therefore, with the Advice of our Privy Council, declare it to be our Royal Will and Pleasure. that no Governor or Commander in Chief in any of our Colonies of Quebec, East Florida. or West Florida, do presume, upon any Pretence whatever, to grant Warrants of Survey, or pass any Patents for Lands beyond the Bounds of their respective Governments.....

And We do further declare it to be Our Royal Will and Pleasure, for the present as aforesaid, to reserve under our Sovereignty, Protection, and Dominion, for the use of the said Indians, all the Lands and Territories not included within the Limits of Our said Three new Governments....

And We do hereby strictly forbid, on Pain of our Displeasure, all our loving Subjects from making any Purchases or Settlements whatever, or taking Possession of any of the Lands above reserved....

And. We do further strictly enjoin and require all Persons whatever who have either wilfully or inadvertently seated themselves upon any Lands within the Countries....[that] are still reserved to the said Indians as aforesaid, forthwith to remove themselves from such Settlements.

Given at our Court at St. James's the 7th Day of October 1763. in the Third Year of our Reign.

GOD SAVE THE KING

Source: "The Royal Proclamation – October 7, 1763." The Avalon Project: Documents in Law, History and Diplomacy, Yale Law School Lillian Goldman Law Library, in memory of Sol Goldman. https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/proc1763.asp



Road to Revolution: The French and Indian War Lesson Plan – Primary Sources

Excerpt, Letter from George Washington to William Crawford, September 21, 1767

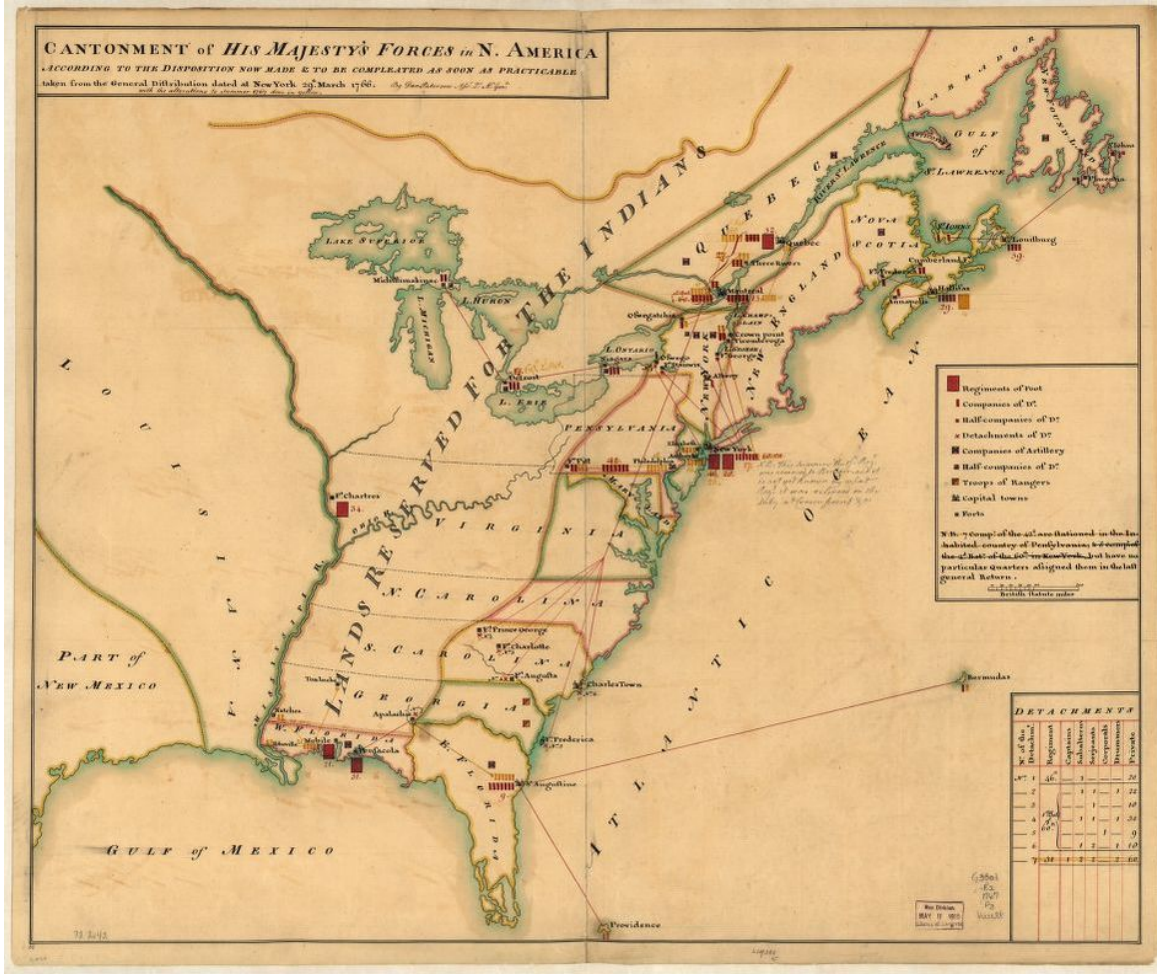
“The other matter, just now hinted at and which I proposed in my last to join you in attempting to secure some of the most valuable Lands in the King’s part which I think may be accomplished after a while notwithstanding the Proclamation that restrains it at present and prohibits the Settling of them at all for I can never look upon that Proclamation in any other light (but this I say between ourselves) than as a temporary expedient to quiet the Minds of the Indians and must fall of course in a few years especially when those Indians are consenting to our Occupying the Lands. Any person therefore who neglects the present opportunity [sic] of hunting out good Lands and in some measure marking and distinguishing them for their own (in order to keep others from settling them) will never regain it, if therefore you will be at the trouble of seeking out the Lands I will take upon me the part of securing them so soon as there is a possibility of doing it and will moreover be at all the Cost and charges of Surveying and Patenting &c. after which you shall have such a reasonable proportion of the whole as we may fix upon at our first meeting as I shall find it absolutely necessary and convenient for the better furthering of the design to let some few of my friends be concernd [sic] in the Scheme and who must also partake of the advantages.”

Source: Washington, George. *George Washington Papers, Series 5, Financial Papers: Copy of Letters and Invoices, -1775. /1775, 1776*. Manuscript/Mixed Material.
<https://www.loc.gov/item/mgw500004/>.

Road to Revolution: The French and Indian War Lesson Plan – Primary Sources

Primary Source Set 2

Map, “Cantonment of His Majesty’s forces in N. America according to the disposition now made & to be completed as soon as practicable taken from the general distribution date at New York 29th. March 1766.”



Source: Paterson, Daniel. *Cantonment of His Majesty’s forces in N. America according to the disposition now made & to be completed as soon as practicable taken from the general distribution date at New York 29th. March 1766.* [1767] Map.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/gm72002042/>



Road to Revolution: The French and Indian War Lesson Plan – Primary Sources

Excerpt, The Quartering Act, May 15, 1765

... there may be occasion for marching and quartering of regiments and companies of his Majesty's forces in several parts of his Majesty's dominions in America: and whereas the publick houses and barracks, in his Majesty's dominions in America, may not be sufficient to supply quarters for such forces: and whereas it is expedient and necessary that carriages and other conveniences, upon the march of troops in his Majesty's dominions in America, should be supplied for that purpose: be it enacted by the King's most excellent majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons, in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That for and during the continuance of this act, and no longer, it shall and may be lawful to and for the constables, tithingmen, magistrates, and other civil officers of villages, towns, townships, cities, districts, and other places, within his Majesty's dominions in America,.... are hereby required to quarter and billet the officers and soldiers, in his Majesty's service, in the barracks provided by the colonies; and if there shall not be sufficient room in the said barracks for the officers and soldiers, then and in such case only, to quarter and billet the residue of such officers and soldiers, for whom there shall not be room in such barracks, in inns, livery stables, ale-houses, victualling-houses, and the houses of sellers of wine by retail to be drank in their own houses or places thereunto belonging, and all houses of persons selling of rum, brandy, strong water, cyder or metheglin, by retail, to be drank in houses; and in case there shall not be sufficient room for the officers and soldiers in such barracks, inns, victualling and other publick alehouses, that in such and no other case, and upon no other account...

Source: "Great Britain: Parliament – The Quartering Act; May 15, 1765." The Avalon Project: Documents in Law, History and Diplomacy, Yale Law School Lillian Goldman Law Library, in memory of Sol Goldman



Road to Revolution: The French and Indian War Lesson Plan – Primary Sources

Petition to the Royal Governor, Sir Henry Moore, 15 December 1755 (published in the New York Mercury, 24 December 1766)

EXCERPTS. We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the General Assembly of the Colony of New York, have taken your Excellency's message of the 17th of November last, into our most serious Consideration: and beg Leave to assure your Excellency that nothing would give us a greater Pleasure than to find it in our Power to comply with every Requisition tending in any manner to promote His Majesty's Service. It is therefore with great Concern that we find it impossible to comply with what is now demanded, consistent with our Obligations to our Constituents [citizens of the colony]. . . . In the Provision we made last Session for quartering Two Battalions and one Company of Artillery, we loaded ourselves with a Burden much greater than any of the neighboring Governments lie under for that Service, and imagined that, far from being censured on that Account, it would be accepted as a new Instance of that Loyalty and Affection to His Majesty's Government, of which this Colony has exhibited so many Proofs. We beg Leave, further, to represent to your Excellency that, by the Act of Parliament, it appears to be the Intention of the Legislature to provide for the quartering Soldiers only on a March; but according to the Construction [interpretation] put on it here, it is required that all the Forces which shall at any Time enter this Colony, shall be quartered during the whole Year, in a very unusual and expensive Manner: That by marching several Regiments into this Colony, this Expense would become ruinous and insupportable; And, therefore, we cannot consistent with our Duty to our Constituents, put it in the Power of any Person . . . to lay such a Burden on them...

Source: "The History of the War in America, Between Great Britain and her Colonies from Its Commencement to the End of the Year of 1778." Company of Booksellers, 1779.



Road to Revolution: The French and Indian War Lesson Plan – Primary Sources

Primary Source Set 3

Excerpt, The Stamp Act, 1765

WHEREAS by an act made in the last session of parliament, several duties were granted, continued, and appropriated, towards defraying the expences of defending, protecting, and securing, the British colonies and plantations in America: and whereas it is just and necessary, that provision be made for raising a further revenue within your Majesty's dominions in America, towards defraying the said expences: ...That from and after the first day of November, one thousand seven hundred and sixty five, there shall be raised, levied, collected, and paid unto his Majesty, his heirs, and successors, throughout the colonies and plantations in America which now are, or hereafter may be, under the dominion of his Majesty, his heirs and successors,...

Source: Great Britain. The Stamp Act, 1765. New York: A. Lovell & company, 1895



Road to Revolution: The French and Indian War Lesson Plan – Primary Sources

Letter from Governor, Samuel Ward, of Rhode Island to Metcalf Bowler, and Henry Ward, Esqs.

Whereas, the general assembly of this province have nominated and appointed you...to be commissioners in behalf of this colony, to meet such commissioners...to meet at New-York on the first Tuesday of October next.

I do, therefore, hereby authorize and empower, and commission you,... to repair to New-York, and there in be-half of this colony, to meet and join with the other commissioners in consulting together on the present circumstances of the colonies, and the difficulties to which they are and must be reduced by the operation of the act of parliaments for levying duties and taxes upon the colonies; and to consider of a general and united, dutiful, loyal and humble representation to this majesty and the parliament and to implore relief. And you are also hereby empowered to conclude and agree with the other commissioners, upon such measures as you shall think necessary and proper for obtaining redress of the grievances of the colonies, agreeably to the instructions given you by the general assembly of this colony.

Source: Stamp Act Congress New York, N.Y.), and Lewis Cruger. Journal of the First Congress of the American Colonies, In Opposition to the Tyrannical Acts of the British Parliament. New York: E. Winchester, 1845.

Road to Revolution: The French and Indian War Lesson Plan – Primary Sources

Political Cartoon, “The Colonies Reduced,” 1767



Source: “The Colonies Reduced – Its Companion.” Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA. <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2004672618/>.