

Excerpt: George Washington to Royal Governor Dinwiddie, March 7, 1754

Source Type: Letter

Courtesy of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In March 1754, before the Seven Years' War began, rising tensions between the French and British colonists along the western frontier were rapidly escalating. In this letter, George Washington lays out the concerns of the Virginia Company under his command to Royal Governor Dinwiddie.

1 Hblr Sir

2 The generality of those Men, who have enlisted for this Expedition are much in want of, and press
3 greatly for Cloathings[.] They all desire so earnestly to be put into a Uniform dress that they would
4 gladly do it at their own Expence to be deducted out of their Pay it was the greatest objection to
5 enlisting and many have refus'd solely on that account after coming purposely to do it with
6 Expectation of getting a Regimental Sute and if I may be so bold to offer my Opinion I can't think
7 but the good Effects that it may produce will sufficiently recompense for any trouble that will ensue.
8 It is the Nature of Indians to be struck with, and taken by show and this will give them a much higher
9 Conception of our Power and greatness and I verily believe fix in our Interest many that are now
10 wavering and undetermin'd whose Cause to Espouse—If it was only a Coat of the Coursest red
11 which may be had in these parts it would answer the Intention—red with them is compard to Blood
12 and is look'd upon as the distinguishing marks of Warriours and great Men—The shabby and ragged
13 appearance the French common Soldiers make affords great matter for ridicule amongst the Indians
14 and I really believe is the chief motive why they hate and despise them as they do. If these are the
15 Effects, the Cause may be easily, and timely remedied. I hope Your Honour will pardon this
16 freedom, which I should not have assum'd but with a good Intention It is my acquaintance with these
17 Indians, and a Study of their Tempers that has in some measure let me into their Customs and
18 dispositions.

19 There is another thing the Soldiers enquire much about i.e, who is to be pay Master and the time for
20 payment Your Honour's answer to this will oblige me very much as I may thereby satisfie the doubts
21 which arrise on that Head[.] I am with all due respect Yr Honours most Obt Humble Servt

22

Go: Washington

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES:

1. What color does George Washington recommend for the uniforms? Provide examples from the source to explain his reasoning.
2. What is George Washington trying to achieve with this letter? Do you believe he will be successful? Why or why not?
3. What are Washington's views of the French? What are his views of the Native Americans? Explain using specific evidence from the source.
4. What is the tone of the letter? Explain your evidence. Compare Washington's tone in this letter with his November 5, 1757 letter. How has it changed, and why?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

1. Examine the original letter in Mount Vernon's Collection:
<http://catalog.mountvernon.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p16829coll27/id/769/rec/1>
2. Allegheny Expedition, Digital Encyclopedia of George Washington:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/digital-encyclopedia/article/allegheny-expedition/>

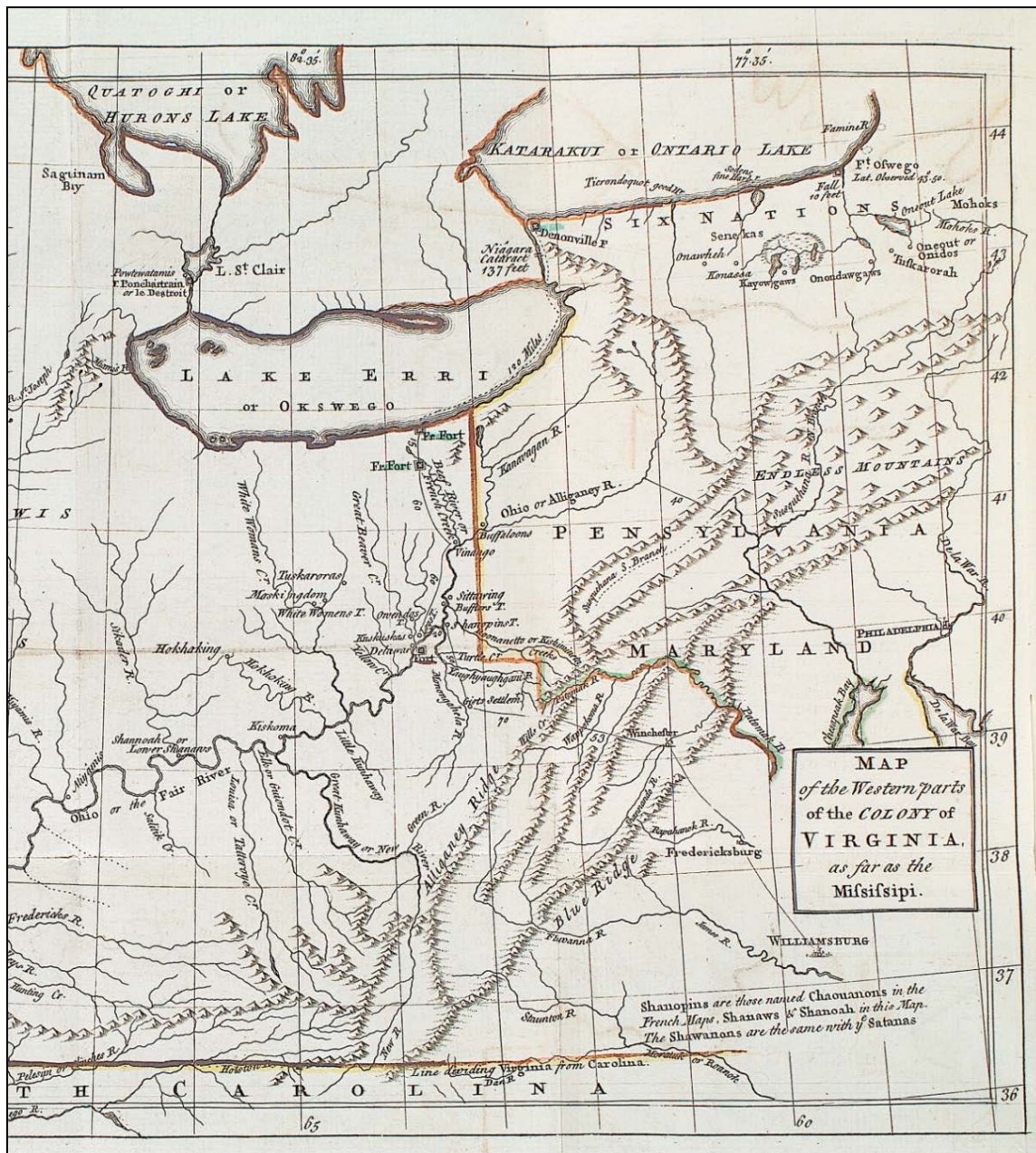
PRIMARY SOURCE SET
GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR

Map of the Western Parts of the Colony of Virginia from the Journal of Major George Washington, 1754

Source Type: Map

Courtesy Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: *The Journal of Major George Washington* is George Washington's account of his two and half month trans-Allegheny journey as an emissary to demand that the French remove themselves from the Ohio Country. It was published by Royal Governor Robert Dinwiddie to raise awareness among colonists and British authorities of the French presence. This map was created to show Royal Governor Dinwiddie the intrusion by the French into territory claimed by the British.



Map of the Western Parts of the Colony of Virginia from the Journal of Major George Washington, 1754

Source Type: Map

Courtesy Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: *The Journal of Major George Washington* is George Washington's account of his two and half month trans-Allegheny journey as an emissary to demand that the French remove themselves from the Ohio Country. It was published by Royal Governor Robert Dinwiddie to raise awareness among colonists and British authorities of the French presence. This map was created to show Royal Governor Dinwiddie the intrusion by the French into territory claimed by the British.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES:

1. Identify lands held by the British, French, and Native Americans.
2. Why do you think the rivers are so clearly defined compared to other areas? What can you conclude about transportation methods and the landscape using this map?
3. Compare and contrast this map to modern maps of the area. Is George Washington's map accurate? Use specific evidence from the source to argue why or why not.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

1. The Journal of Major George Washington, Digital Encyclopedia of George Washington:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/digital-encyclopedia/article/the-journal-of-major-george-washington/>
2. Explore the original map in Mount Vernon's Collection:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/preservation/collections-holdings/browse-the-museum-collections/object/ml-306-m/#->
3. Allegheny Expedition, Digital Encyclopedia:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/digital-encyclopedia/article/allegheny-expedition/>
4. Interactive Map of Washington's Journey to Fort La Boeuf:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/washingtons-world/#ww%7C%7Cjourneys%3A1753-To-Fort-Le-Boeuf>

Excerpt: Expedition to the Ohio – Narrative, 1754

Source Type: Report

Courtesy of [www.founders.archives.gov](http://wwwFOUNDERS.archives.gov)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: George Washington wrote this in-depth account of his return to the Ohio Country to remove the French from their encroachments onto British land. This excerpt provides Washington's version of the Battle of Jumonville Glenn and the death of French Commander Jumonville. Washington's account highlights colonial views of the French, and describes his relationship with Native Americans during the first part of the Seven Years' War.

1 ...We killed Mr. de Jumonville, the Commander of that Party, as also nine others; we wounded one,
2 and made Twenty-one Prisoners, among whom were M. la Force, M. Drouillon, and two Cadets.
3 The Indians scalped the Dead, and took away the most Part of their Arms, after which we marched
4 on with the Prisoners and the Guard, to the Indian Camp, where again I held a Council with the Half-
5 King; and there informed him, that the Governor was desirous to see him, and was waiting for him
6 at Winchester; he answered that, he could not go just then, as his People were in too eminent a
7 Danger from the French, whom they had fallen upon; that he must send Messengers to all the allied
8 Nations, in order to invite them to take up the Hatchet...After this I marched on with the
9 Prisoners; They informed me that they had been sent with a Summons to order me to depart. A
10 plausible Pretence to discover our Camp, and to obtain the Knowledge of our Forces and our
11 Situation! It was so clear that they were come to reconnoitre what we were, that I admired at their
12 Assurance, when they told me they were come as an Embassy; for their Instructions mentioned that
13 they should get what Knowledge they could of the Roads, Rivers, and of all the Country as far
14 as Potowmack: And instead of coming as an Ambassador, publicly, and in an open Manner, they
15 came secretly, and sought after the most hidden Retreats, more like Deserters than Ambassadors
16 in such Retreat they incamped, and remained hid for whole Days together, and that, no more than
17 five Miles from us: From thence they sent Spies to reconnoitre our Camp; after this was done, they
18 went back two Miles, from whence they sent the two Messengers spoken of in the Instruction, to
19 acquaint M. de Contrecoeur of the Place we were at, and of our Disposition, that he might send his
20 Detachments to inforce the Summons as soon as it should be given...

21 ...It was the Opinion of the Half-King in this Case, that their Intentions were evil, and that it was a
22 pure Pretence; that they never intended to come to us but as Enemies; and if we had been such Fools
23 as to let them go, they would never help us any more to take other Frenchmen. They say they called

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24 to us as soon as they had discovered us; which is an absolute Falshood, for I was then marching at
25 the Head of the Company going towards them, and can positively affirm, that, when they first saw
26 us, they ran to their Arms, without calling; as I must have heard them, had they so done.

Excerpt: Expedition to the Ohio – Narrative, 1754

Source Type: Report

Courtesy of [www.founders.archives.gov](http://wwwFOUNDERS.archives.gov)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: George Washington wrote this in-depth account of his return to the Ohio Country to remove the French from their encroachments onto British land. This excerpt provides Washington's version of the Battle of Jumonville Glenn and the death of French Commander Jumonville. Washington's account highlights colonial views of the French, and describes his relationship with Native Americans during the first part of the Seven Years' War.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES:

1. What are Washington's views of the French? Explain using evidence from the source.
2. Describe the relationship between the Native American Indian Tanachrison, also known as Half-King, and the British emissary group.
3. How would you describe Washington's tone in this account? Explain using evidence from the source.
4. Compare and contrast this excerpt with the 1759 French print, *Jumonville* (Source 4).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

1. Map of Battle Movements including Jumonville Glen:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/preservation/maps/washington-in-the-french-indian-war/>
2. Jumonville Glen Skirmish, Digital Encyclopedia of George Washington:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/digital-encyclopedia/article/jumonville-glen-skirmish/>

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***Jumonville* by Antoine Leonard Thomas, 1759**

Source Type: Print

Featured in *The Cult of Nation in France: Inventing Nationalism, 1680-1800* by David A. Bell

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: This widely circulated print was part of a larger campaign to incite the French population to support a war against the British. *Jumonville* depicts the death of Commander Jumonville at the hands of George Washington. Through the use of clothing and landscape, the artist alludes to the Crusades with the French as the Crusaders and the British as the Saracens (or Muslims).



***Jumonville* by Antione Leonard Thomas, 1759**

Source Type: Print

Featured in *The Cult of Nation in France: Inventing Nationalism, 1680-1800* by David A. Bell A. Bell

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: French accounts of the Battle of Jumonville Glen are remarkably different than George Washington's version. The French claimed that Washington and his Native American allies assassinated Commander Jumonville. One account asserted that one of Tanachrison's (or Half- King's) men violently murdered Jumonville after he surrendered. Another account maintained that George Washington and his troops were responsible for Jumonville's death. This widely circulated print was part of a larger campaign to incite the French population to support a war against the British. *Jumonville* depicts the death of Commander Jumonville at the hands of George Washington. Through the use of clothing and landscape, the artist alludes to the Crusades with the French as the Crusaders and the British as the Saracens (or Muslims).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES:

1. Compare and contrast the *Jumonville* print with Washington's *Expedition to the Ohio- Narrative, 1754* (Source 3).
2. Why do you think the artist chose to depict the event using imagery recalling the Crusades?
3. Imagine you are a French subject living in 18th century Paris. How might this image make you feel about the British?
4. Compare and contrast the *Jumonville* print with propaganda from World War II.
5. Host a class discussion using Virtual Thinking Strategies
<http://www.vtshome.org/>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

1. Map: Washington in the French and Indian War, 1754-1759:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/preservation/maps/washington-in-the-french-indian-war/>
2. Private John Shaw's account of the Battle of Jumonville Glen:
<http://explorepahistory.com/odocument.php?docId=1-4-19>

Excerpt: Articles of Capitulation, Fort Necessity, 1754

Source Type: Document

Courtesy of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: After the French defeated the British at the Battle of Fort Necessity these *Articles of Capitulation* were drawn up. This document was written in French and signed by Washington, who could not read French.

1 Capitulation granted by Mons. De Villier, Captain of infantry and commander of troops of his most
2 Christian Majesty, to those English troops actually in the fort of Necessity which was built on the
3 lands of the King's dominions July the 3rd, at eight o'clock at night, 1754.

4 As our intention had never been to trouble the peace and good harmony which reigns between the
5 two friendly princes, but only to revenge the assassination which has been done on one of our
6 officers, bearer of a summons, upon his party, as also to hinder any establishment on the lands of the
7 dominions of the King, my master. Upon these considerations, we are willing to grant protection of
8 favor, to all the English that are in the said fort, upon conditions hereafter mentioned.

9 Article 1

10 We grant the English commander to retire with all garrisons, to return peaceably into his own
11 country, and we promise to hinder his receiving any insult from us French, and to restrain as much as
12 shall be in our power the Savages that are with us.

13 ...Article 7

14 Since the English have in their power an officer and two cadets, and, in general all the prisoners
15 whom they took when assassinated Sieur de Jumonville they now promise to send them with an
16 escort to Fort Duquesne, situated on Belle River, and to secure the safe performance of this treaty
17 article, as was as of the treaty, Messrs. Jacob Van Braam and Robert Stobo, both Captains shall be
18 delivered to us as hostages until the arrival of our French and Canadians herein before...

19 James Mackay

20 George Washington

21 Coulon de Villiers

Excerpt: Articles of Capitulation, Fort Necessity, 1754

Source Type: Document

Courtesy of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Following the Battle of Jumonville Glen, Washington began preparing for a counter attack from the French. He secured Fort Necessity as his base; importantly the fort was designed to hold supplies, not be the center of a battle. The French defeated the British and *Articles of Capitulation* were drawn up at the time of the surrender. This document was written in French and signed by Washington, who could not read French. They highlight the French view of the beginnings of the Seven Years' War and the events at Jumonville Glen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES:

1. Compare and contrast the *Articles of Capitulation* with the excerpt *Expedition to the Ohio—Narrative, 1754* (Source 3) and the French Print *Jumonville* (Source 4).
2. What do the French cite as the causes of the war in the Articles of Capitulation? Compare and contrast the French perspective with Royal Governor Robert Dinwiddie's perspective in the excerpt *Instructions for Colonel Washington from Royal Governor Robert Dinwiddie* (Source 6).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

1. Full translated text of *Articles of Capitulation, 1754*:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/education/primary-sources-2/article/articles-of-capitulation-fort-necessity/>
2. Washington and the French & Indian War:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/french-indian-war/washington-and-the-french-indian-war/>
3. Fort Necessity, Digital Encyclopedia of George Washington:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/digital-encyclopedia/article/fort-necessity/>

Excerpt: Instructions for Colonel George Washington from Royal Governor Dinwiddie, August 14, 1755

Source Type: Document

Courtesy of wwwFOUNDERS.archives.gov

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Royal Governor Robert Dinwiddie provided instructions to Colonel George Washington, commander of the Virginia Regiment, to go west to the Ohio Country and remove the French.

1 Williamsburg August 14th 1755

2 Instructions for Colonel George Washington Commander in Chief of the Virginia Regiment.

3 Whereas the French have unjustly invaded His Majesty's Lands on the Ohio, and have sent flying
4 Parties of French and Indians, to robb, and murder our back Settlers to the Westward, which the
5 Legislature of this Dominion having seriously taken into their Consideration, and voted Money
6 for the Protection of our Frontiers, and for conducting the necessary Expedition to drive the
7 French from the Ohio. In Consequence thereof, I have granted Commissions for raising Sixteen
8 Companies of Men to be formed into a Regiment—The Command of which Regiment, together
9 with the Forces that now are, or may be employd in the Country Service, being given to You; You
10 are as soon as possible to use Your utmost Endeavours to compleat the said Regiment by sending
11 the Officers to recruit in the different Counties of this Dominion, as You shall see most
12 Convenient, leaving six Officers to do Duty with the Men who remain at Fort Cumberland...

13 ...The Clothing of the Regiment is to be provided by the Country, & to be sent to You, in order to
14 be delivered to the Effective Men of each Company...

15 ...You are to transmit to me Weekly Returns of the Regiment and a Return the first Day of every
16 Month, with the Variations that may have happened the preceding Month. When any of the Non-
17 Commissioned Officers, or Private Men should happen to die, they are to be continued on the
18 Returns and Rolls as Effective Men for Twenty eight Day's to pay for his Coffin, that the
19 Commander of the Company 〈may be〉 no Losser by his Death.

20 I sincerely desire that You will inculcate Morality and Virtue among Your Men, to punish
21 Drunkenness and Swearing—Wishing You Health & recommending You to the Protection of
22 God, I am Sir Your Friend and humble Servant.

23

Robt Dinwiddie

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Excerpt: Instructions for Colonel George Washington from Royal Governor Dinwiddie, August 14, 1755

Source Type: Document

Courtesy of [www.founders.archives.gov](http://wwwFOUNDERS.archives.gov)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Royal Governor Robert Dinwiddie provided instructions to Colonel George Washington, commander of the Virginia Regiment, to go west to the Ohio Country and remove the French. In his instructions, Dinwiddie described the British rationale for the war, which included the protection of the growing wave of colonial settlers moving west. The instructions also commented on the needs of the regiment and outlined the responsibilities of Washington's command.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES:

1. What reasons does Dinwiddie provide to justify going to war? Do you believe they are valid? Use evidence from the source to argue why, or why not.
2. What are Washington's duties as a commander of a regiment as described by Dinwiddie?
3. According to Dinwiddie, what are the causes of the war with France? Compare the British perspective provided by Dinwiddie to the French perspective in the excerpt of the *Articles of Capitulation, Fort Necessity, 1754* (Source 5).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

1. Robert Dinwiddie, Digital Encyclopedia of George Washington:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/digital-encyclopedia/article/robert-dinwiddie/>

Excerpt: George Washington to Royal Governor Dinwiddie, July 18, 1755

Source Type: Letter

Courtesy of [www.founders.archives.gov](http://wwwFOUNDERS.archives.gov)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: George Washington recounts the Battle of Monongahela (also known as the Battle of the Wilderness or Braddock's Defeat) to Royal Governor Robert Dinwiddie in this letter. British General Edward Braddock was shot during the battle and later died from the wounds. **NOTE:** The crossed out text indicates Washington's own edits.

1 To The Honble Robt Dinwiddie

2 Esqr. Williamsburgh

3 Honble Sir

4 As I am favourd with an oppertunity, I shoud think myself inexcusable, was I to omit givg you some
5 acct of our late Engagemt with the French on the Monogahela the 9th Inst.

6 We continued our March from Fort Cumberland to Frazer's (which is within 7 Miles of Duquisne)
7 witht meetg ~~with~~ any extraordinary event, havg only a stragler or two picked Up by the French
8 Indians. When we came to this place, we were attackd, (very unexpectedly ~~I must own~~) by abt 300
9 French and Indns; Our number's consisted of abt 1300 well armd Men, chiefly regular's, who were
10 immediately struck with such ~~a deadly~~ an inconceivable Panick, that nothing but confusion and
11 disobedience or order's prevaild amongst them: The Officers's in genl behavd with incomparable
12 bravery, for which they greatly suffered, there being near 60 killd and woundd A large Proportion
13 out of the number we had! The Virginians Companies behave like Men, and died like Soldier's; for I
14 believe out of 3 Companys that were ~~there~~ on the ground that Day, scarce 30 were left alive: Captn
15 Peyrouny and all his Officer's down to a Corporal, were killd; Captn Polson shard almost as hard a
16 Fate, for only one of his Escap'd: In short the dastardly behaviour of the ~~English Soldier's~~ Regular
17 Troops exposd all those who were inclin'd to do their duty, to almost certai(n) Death; and at length,
18 in despiht of every effort to the contraty, broke & run as Sheep before ~~the~~ Hounds, leavg the
19 Artillery, Ammunition, Provision, ~~and every individual~~ Baggage & in short every thing ~~we had with~~
20 ~~us~~ prey to the enemy...

21 ...The Genl was wounded ~~behind~~ in the Shoulder, & into the Breast; of wch he died three days
22 after... It is supposed that we ~~left~~ had 300 or more ~~dead in the field~~ killed; abt that number we
23 brought off wounded; and it is ~~imagin'd~~ conjectured (I believe with ~~great justice to~~ much truth) that
24 two thirds of both ~~those number's~~ receiv'd their shott from our own cowardly ~~dogs of Soldier's~~
25 Regulars, who gathered themselves into a body contraty to orders 10 or 12 deep, then would level,
26 Fire, & shoot down the Men before them.

27 I Tremble at the consequences that this defeat may have upon our back settlers, who I suppose will all
28 leave their habitation's unless there are proper measures taken for their security...

29

G. W--n

30 Fort Cumberland July 18th 1755

Excerpt: George Washington to Royal Governor Dinwiddie, July 18, 1755

Source Type: Letter

Courtesy of wwwFOUNDERS.archives.gov

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: George Washington recounts the Battle of Monongahela (also known as the Battle of the Wilderness or Braddock's Defeat) to Royal Governor Robert Dinwiddie in this letter. British General Edward Braddock was shot during the battle and later died from the wounds. Washington's frustration with the actions of the British troops, especially in contrast with those of his Virginia Regiment, is evident. He also highlights concerns about the British settlers in the Ohio Country.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES:

1. How does Washington view the behavior of the British Regular troops? Explain using evidence from the source.
2. What is Washington's tone throughout the letter? Do Washington's edits affect the tone of the letter? Support your answer with specific evidence from the source.
3. Look at this letter in relationship with *Braddock's Sash, circa 1709* (Source 8). Based on this letter, why do you think Braddock gave his sash to Washington?
4. How do the events described in this letter contribute to the growing sense of resentment George Washington felt towards the British? Explain your answer using specific evidence from the text.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

1. Battle of Monongahela, Digital Encyclopedia of George Washington:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/digital-encyclopedia/article/battle-of-the-monongahela/>
2. Braddock's Defeat: An Interview with David Preston:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/french-indian-war/braddocks-defeat-an-interview-with-david-preston/>
3. Interactive Map of Braddock's March:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/washingtons-world/#ww%7C%7Cjourneys%3A1755-Braddocks-March>

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Braddock's Sash, c. 1709

Source Type: Object

Silk, 19inches x 144 inches

Made in England

Courtesy of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The sash is made from silk and woven using a method called sprang, which makes it extremely strong. On July 9, 1755, every British officer, including General Edward Braddock, was either injured or killed at the Battle of Monongahela; the only exception was Braddock's aide-de-camp, George Washington. Braddock sustained a fatal wound and is said to have been carried from the battlefield in this officer's sash. The dark line on the right side of the sash is believed to be blood from Braddock's injuries. Family tradition maintains that prior to his death, Braddock presented the sash to Washington. Officers' sashes were a symbol of the status of the officer and acted as a clear visual marker on the battle field to indicate the chain of command.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES:

1. Analyze the sash using the *20 Questions for Reading and Evaluating Objects* worksheet:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/education/lesson-plans/lesson/20-questions-for-reading-and-evaluating-objects/>
2. What is the significance of Braddock gifting this sash to Washington?
3. Pair Braddock's Sash with the excerpt *George Washington to Royal Governor Dinwiddie, July 18, 1755* (Source 7) about the Battle of Monongahela. What additional information can you infer?
4. Pair Braddock's Sash with the portrait *George Washington as a Colonel in the Virginia Regiment* (Source 12) by Charles Willson Peale. What additional information can you infer?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

1. Short video on the construction and use of Braddock's Sash:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/video/watch/sprang-and-the-braddock-sash>
2. See Braddock's Sash in Mount Vernon's Collection:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/preservation/collections-holdings/browse-the-museum-collections/object/w-86/>
3. Battle of Monongahela, Digital Encyclopedia of George Washington:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/digital-encyclopedia/article/battle-of-the-monongahela/>
4. Braddock's Defeat: An Interview with David Preston:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/french-indian-war/braddocks-defeat-an-interview-with-david-preston/>
5. Interactive Map of Braddock's March:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/washingtons-world/#ww%7C%7Cjourneys%3A1755-Braddocks-March>

PRIMARY SOURCE
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Excerpt: George Washington to Royal Governor Dinwiddie, November 5, 1757

Source Type: Letter

Courtesy of www.founders.archives.gov

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: George Washington writes to Royal Governor Robert Dinwiddie expressing his frustration and describing the British treatment of Native Americans.

1 Honble Sir.[Fort Loudoun] Novem. 5th 1757

2 Duty to my country and His Majesty's interest, indispensably requires, that I again trouble your Honor on

3 The subject of Indian affairs here; which have been impeded and embarrassed by such a train of

4 mismanagement, as a continuance of which must inevitably produce the most melancholy consequences.

5 The sincere disposition the Cherokees have betrayed to espouse our cause heartily, has been demonstrated

6 beyond the most distant doubt: and if rewarded in the manner in which that laudable and meritorious

7 disposition entitles them to, wou'd, in all human probability, soon effect a favourable change in the present

8 (apparently) desperate situation of this poor, unhappy part of His majesty's Dominions. But, in the stead of

9 meeting with that great encouragement which the essential Services of that brave people undoubtedly merit;

10 several of them, after having undergone the rudest toils and fatigues of an excessively long march

11 destitute of all the conveniences, and almost necessities of life—and, (to give us still more convincing

12 proofs of their strong attachment to our interest) in that very situation, went to war; and in the way behaved

13 nobly (from which we reaped a signal advantage;) and, when they returned here with an enemys' *scalp*,

14 Baggage, and other trophies of Honor, they must have gone home without any kind of reward or thanks—or

15 even provisions to support them on their march—justly fired with the highest resentment for their mal-

16 treatment—

17 ... I applied to Capt'n Gist in their behalf; and told him I must represent the matter to your Honor. But he

18 assures me that he has neither Goods to reward them, money to procure them; or even an Interpreter; which

19 totally incapacitates him for doing any kind of service. If so (which I have no reason to doubt), it is

20 surprizing that any man shou'd be entrusted with the negotiating of such important affairs, and not be

21 possess'd of the means to accomplish the undertaking: By which he, and several others who receive high

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22 pay from virginia, are not only rendered useless, but our Interest with those Indians is at the brink of
23 destruction. Whenever a party arrives here, they immediately apply to me: But I have neither any thing to
24 give them, nor any right to do it. Nor is there any body to inform them, to what these and their other
25 disappointments is owing: which reduces me to such a dilemma as I wou'd most gladly be extricated from.

26 I must likewise beg leave to mention to your Honor once more, the vast hardships many of the poor people
27 groan under here, having been so long kept out of the money which the country owes them on account of
28 the Indians. When I proposed going down to Williamsburgh, many of them brought their accompts to me,
29 which I intended (had you given me liberty) to have laid before your Honor. I mention this circumstance,
30 not with any view of being employed in examining and paying off those accompts (which for many reasons
31 I can, by no means, undertake) but in hope that your Honor will be pleased to give directions to, and
32 denominate some person for that purpose, for the neglect of which so many poor peop[le] greatly Suffer. I
33 am Yr's &c.

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Excerpt: George Washington to Royal Governor Dinwiddie, November 5, 1757

Source Type: Letter

Courtesy of [www.founders.archives.gov](http://wwwFOUNDERS.archives.gov)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: George Washington wrote to Royal Governor Robert Dinwiddie expressing his frustration and describing the British treatment of Native Americans. He expressed his concern that the mistreatment of the Native Americans could lead to more attacks on British settlers in the Ohio Country. Washington provided examples of the incompetence of the British military to pay the Native Americans, manage British settlers, and supervise Virginia troops.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES:

1. Why does Washington call the management of Native Americans “a train of mismanagement?” Use specific examples from the source in your answer.
2. According to Washington, what are the potential consequences of mistreating the Native Americans?
3. Describe Washington’s changing views of the British? Use evidence from the source in your answer.
4. Compare and contrast this letter with Washington’s opinion of Native Americans laid out the excerpt *George Washington to Royal Governor Dinwiddie, March 7, 1754* (Source 1).
5. Pair this letter with the excerpt *Washington’s Expedition to Ohio – Narrative, 1754* (Source 3). How is Washington’s tone and language about the French in 1754 similar to or different from his tone and language about the British in 1757?
6. Compare and contrast this excerpt with the excerpts *Washington’s Expedition to Ohio – Narrative, 1754* (Source 3) and *George Washington to Royal Governor July 18, 1755* (Source 7). How is Washington’s perspective of the British evolving over time?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

1. Nation to Nation: George Washington and the Native Americans, Historians Fred Anderson and Brett Rushford describe Washington’s early encounters with Native Americans in the Ohio Valley:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/french-indian-war/fred-anderson-on-the-french-indian-war/>
2. Washington at the Cherokee, Digital Encyclopedia of George Washington:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/digital-encyclopedia/article/cherokee/>

PRIMARY SOURCE SET
GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR

***The Death of General Wolfe* by Benjamin West, 1770**

Source Type: Painting

Courtesy of National Gallery of Canada, www.gallery.ca

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: *The Death of General Wolfe* by Benjamin West depicts the Battle of Quebec (also known as the Battle of the Plains of Abraham) which took place on September 13, 1759. This encounter was the last major battle in the North American theater of the Seven Years' War with the British gaining political and military control over the French in North America. Following a three-month siege of the city of Quebec, the Battle of Quebec lasted approximately fifteen minutes. British General James Wolfe was killed by musket fire within the first few minutes of the battle.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES:

1. Why do you think Benjamin West decided to paint this moment? What was he trying to accomplish with this painting? Explain using evidence from the source.
2. Write a description of the painting as though you were on the phone with someone who has not seen it.
3. In the excerpt *Washington to the Royal Governor Dinwiddie November 5, 1757* (Source 9), Washington accused the British of mistreating and mismanaging Native Americans during the Seven Years' War. How does Benjamin West's depiction of Native Americans in the *Death of General Wolfe* support or contradict Washington's claim? Use evidence from the sources to support your answer.
4. Research the Battle of Quebec and the death of Wolfe and draw a more historically accurate account of the event.
5. Host a class discussion using Virtual Thinking Strategies
<http://www.vtshome.org/>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

1. Video exploration of the painting from the National Gallery of Canada:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0jPXX8uvAI>
2. Battle of Quebec Overview
<http://www.history.com/topics/battle-of-quebec-1759>
3. Collection of comments on the painting by Art Historians:
<http://www.19thcenturyart-facos.com/artwork/death-general-wolfe>

Excerpt: Treaty of Paris, 1763

Source Type: Document

Courtesy of The Avalon Project, www.avalon.law.yale.edu

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Treaty of Paris is the treaty that formally ended the Seven Years' War between France and Britain.

1 It has pleased the Most High to diffuse the spirit of union and concord among the Princes, whose
2 divisions had spread troubles in the four parts of the world, and to inspire them with the inclination
3 to cause the comforts of peace to succeed to the misfortunes of a long and bloody war, which having
4 arisen between England and France during the reign...

5 ...**VII.** In order to re-establish peace on solid and durable foundations, and to remove for ever all
6 subject of dispute with regard to the limits of the British and French territories on the continent of
7 America; it is agreed, that, for the future, the confines between the dominions of his Britannick
8 Majesty and those of his Most Christian Majesty, in that part of the world, shall be fixed irrevocably
9 by a line drawn along the middle of the River Mississippi, from its source to the river Iberville, and
10 from thence, by a line drawn along the middle of this river, and the lakes Maurepas and
11 Pontchartrain to the sea; and for this purpose, the Most Christian King cedes in full right, and
12 guaranties to his Britannick Majesty the river and port of the Mobile, and every thing which he
13 possesses, or ought to possess, on the left side of the river Mississippi, except the town of New
14 Orleans and the island in which it is situated, which shall remain to France, provided that the
15 navigation of the river Mississippi shall be equally free, as well to the subjects of Great Britain as to
16 those of France, in its whole breadth and length, from its source to the sea, and expressly that part
17 which is between the said island of New Orleans and the right bank of that river, as well as the
18 passage both in and out of its mouth: It is farther stipulated, that the vessels belonging to the subjects
19 of either nation shall not be stopped, visited, or subjected to the payment of any duty whatsoever.
20 The stipulations inserted in the IVth article, in favour of the inhabitants of Canada shall also take
21 place with regard to the inhabitants of the countries ceded by this article...

Excerpt: Treaty of Paris, 1763

Source Type: Document

Courtesy of The Avalon Project, www.avalon.law.yale.edu

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Treaty of Paris is the treaty that formally ended the Seven Years' War between France and Britain. Its primary focus was on land ownership outside of Europe and it specifically defined the Mississippi River as a western boundary of British lands and the eastern boundary of French lands. This document laid the foundations for the Proclamation Line of 1763, which attempted to limit British settlers in the west. The opening lines of the treaty highlight the Seven Years' War as a truly global war.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES:

1. On a global map, indicate the different nations involved in the Seven Years' War. What land was gained or lost according to the *Treaty of Paris, 1763*?
2. What was the social, political, and economic impact of the Treaty of Paris?
3. Does the Treaty of Paris account for Native Americans already living on the land? Use evidence from the source to support your answer.
4. Imagine Native American nations were at the peace talks, helping to write the treaty. Rewrite Article VII in a way that represents the interests of the indigenous population.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

1. Full text of the Treaty of Paris, 1763:
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/paris763.asp

PRIMARY SOURCE SET
GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR

George Washington as a Colonel in the Virginia Regiment by Charles Volkmar (1874), after Charles Willson Peale

Source Type: Painting

Courtesy of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Martha Washington commissioned this portrait of George Washington nearly ten years after the end of the Seven Years' War. Washington chose to have himself painted in his uniform from his time as a colonel in the Virginia Regiment. At the time of the commission it was assumed this might be the only portrait made of Washington, since portraits were expensive, and he wanted to communicate his greatest accomplishment.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES:

1. Why do you think it was important for Washington to be painting in his British uniform?
2. Use the Mount Vernon Virtual tour to explore the West Parlor. What was Washington trying to communicate by placing this portrait in this room at Mount Vernon? Why do you think Martha Washington commission the portrait in 1772? Mount Vernon Virtual Tour:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/site/virtual-tour/>
3. This painting was completed in 1772 and within a few years Washington was in command of the American forces during the American Revolution. Compare and contrast this portrait with Charles Willson Peale's 1781 painting *George Washington at the Battle of Princeton*:
<http://artgallery.yale.edu/collections/objects/39532>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

1. Charles Willson Peale, Digital Encyclopedia of George Washington:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/digital-encyclopedia/article/charles-willson-peale/>
2. Collection of Life Portraits of George Washington:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/artwork/life-portraits-of-george-washington/>
3. West Parlor, Digital Encyclopedia of George Washington:
<http://www.mountvernon.org/digital-encyclopedia/article/front-parlor/>