

1. 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.

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/>

2. 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-Allegany 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>

3. 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/>

4. *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>

5. 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/>

6. 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/>

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

Source Type: Letter

Courtesy of www.founders.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>

8. Braddock’s Sash, c. 1709

Source Type: Object

Silk, 19 inches 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 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.

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>

9. 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/>

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

Source Type: Painting

Courtesy of National Gallery of Canada

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. In the painting, a messenger can be seen running toward the group with news of the French defeat. The artist, Benjamin West was not present at the Battle of the Quebec and created the painting to be symbolic, rather than historically accurate. For example, in the center of the painting Wolfe is surrounded by his aides; at the actual time of his death, Wolfe’s aids were commanding troops in battle. West’s portrayal of this pivotal moment came to symbolize British Imperialism. The image of *The Death of General Wolfe* instantly became one of the most popular paintings in Britain and the colonies with replicas and prints sold around the world.

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>

11. 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

12. 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. The folded document in his pocket contains orders from Royal Governor Dinwiddie. The red officer’s sash and the silver gorget around his neck are both symbols of status in the military. The naturalistic landscape in the background recalls Washington’s time in the Ohio Territory while fighting for the British. Upon retiring from the Virginia Regiment, Washington took on the role of planter, focusing on developing his farms, purchasing luxury goods from Britain for himself and his new bride Martha Dandridge Custis, and becoming involved in Virginia politics in Williamsburg. **NOTE:** The painting shown here is by the artist Charles Volkmar. It is a replica of the 1772 portrait painted by Charles Willson Peale and commissioned by Martha Washington.

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 commissioned 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/>