Colonization and Settlement

Colonization and Settlement (1585–1763)

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Icons: For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*

Flash activity (these activities are not editable)

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Ruling America

By the end of this section, you will know about how the British and French ruled their American colonies and how this affected the colonies:

- British political rule in the American colonies

- Colonial self-government

- Relations with Native Americans

- The French and Indian War.

There were three types of colonial government established in the British colonies in North America. These were **charter**, **proprietary** and **royal** colonies.

Press the information buttons to find out about each type and then sort the colonies according to the type of government they had.

Press **start** to begin.

start

Despite the different forms of colonial government, they were all largely similar in their basic structure. Each of them had:

- a **governor** appointed by the Crown or the proprietor

- a **council** appointed by the Crown

- an **assembly** or representative body elected by those eligible to vote.

The exception to this were the **corporate colonies**, which were established by charters granted by the Crown. They were based on trading company charters and had "self rule."

The mercantile policies of the English government were carried out via a series of acts introduced from the 1650s called the **Navigation Acts**. Can you match the different acts to the effects they had?

Press **start** to begin.

start

Aside from the Navigation Acts, for the most part, the Royal government left the day-to-day administration of the colonies to the colonists themselves. This policy is known as **salutary neglect** or **benign neglect**. It ran from 1607 to 1763 and was particularly associated with Prime Minister Robert Walpole.

Initially there was no coherent imperial policy and any attempts to form one were not enforced until 1763.

This created a decentralized, inefficient, and often incoherent colonial administration.

Why did the British pursue salutary neglect?

As a consequence of the policy of salutary neglect, the colonial **legislatures** assumed increasing responsibility for the administration of each colony. By 1750, colonial assemblies were passing laws and even levying taxes.

The colonial legislatures came to view themselves as little parliaments.

This created a tradition of independence and self-government in the colonies. Prolonged isolation also helped to develop an identity where the colonies were separate from that of Britain.

French explorers traveled deep into the American interior and established a vast empire. By 1682, the French had traveled the length of the Mississippi River.

With the rise of King Louis XIV, France began viewing North America as a more important part of their growing mercantile empire. Finance Minister Jean-Baptiste Colbert agreed:

North America will become a vast new market for French exports. Its abundance of resources also means that it will serve as the granary of the French empire.

As the colonies expanded, they came into contact with Native Americans. The English initially largely fought and slew, or conquered and enslaved them. The French generally created better relations with them, most notably with the **Iroquois Confederacy** of the Ohio Valley.

However, Native Americans were able to survive and did trade with both the English and French. They also formed alliances with them and sometimes played them off against each other.

By the middle of the 18th century, North America became a battleground as part of a larger struggle between England and France for dominance in world trade and naval power.

Drag each statement to the correct place, depending on whether it refers to the British or French colonies and their position in North America.

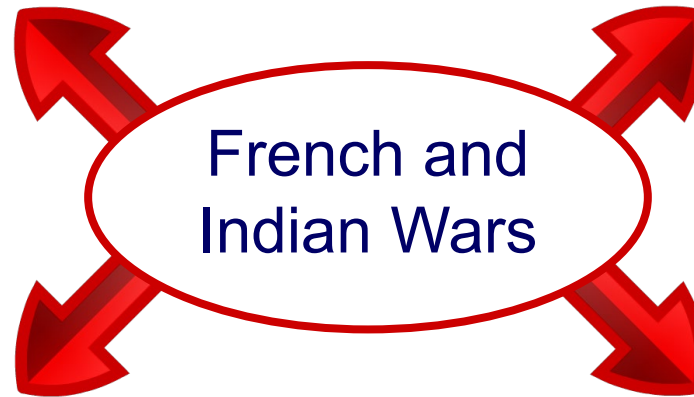Press **start** to begin.

start

The **French and Indian Wars** were a series of conflicts fought over 75 years for control of colonial North America.

1. King William's War
   1689–1697

2. Queen Anne's War
   1702–1713

French and Indian Wars

3. King George's War
   1744–1748

4. French and Indian War
   1756–1763

Who fought in each of these wars?

By the middle of the 18th century, North America became a battleground as part of a larger struggle between England and France for dominance in world trade and naval power. The last conflict was the **French and Indian War**. Watch this animation to find out more about it.

Press **start** to begin.

start

The **Treaty of Paris** in 1763 settled the French and Indian War. The French gave Canada and their other North American territories to Britain.

> Although Britain won the war and claimed the whole of eastern North America, it came at a cost. Britain incurred huge debts fighting and caused hostility and resistance in the colonies, which had been used to running their own affairs for a long time.

How did the conflict make the colonies feel?
Did all of the colonies feel the same way?

Test your knowledge of the settlement and colonization of America with this quiz. Choose the correct answer to each question to see how much you can remember about colonization.

Press **start** to begin.

start

Test your understanding of colonization and settlement by recapping key terms and important people using this glossary.
Press on the tabs and then each term to see a definition.
Press **start** to begin.

start