

LESSON 2

1600 1608 1701 1720 1760

THE FRENCH IN NORTH AMERICA

READ ALOUD

They first arrived on fishing ships. Yet they soon "threw up their old jobs" . . . for bear skins and beaver skins," wrote historian Francis Parkman. They "followed the Indians . . . , lived with them, [and] grew familiar with their language. . . ." Who were these Europeans who chose to live deep in the forests of North America?

THE BIG PICTURE

While Spain was busy building colonies in Mexico and the Caribbean islands in the early 1500s, France was claiming land farther north in North America. As you read in the Infographic on pages 176–177, French explorers such as Jacques Cartier (Kahr TYAY) first came to North America in search of a Northwest Passage to Asia. Then in 1534 the French reached what is now Newfoundland and claimed the land along the St. Lawrence River. The French called it Canada, after the Huron word *kanata*, which means "village." Later the name of New France was given to France's lands along the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes.

For over 60 years, few French people settled in New France. Religious wars in Europe between Catholics and Protestants took up much of France's attention. However, some of the French did begin fishing off the coast of New France. They also began a fur trade with the Native Americans. This fur trade would soon bring wealth and power to France.

FOCUS Activity

READ TO LEARN

Why did France build colonies in North America?

VOCABULARY

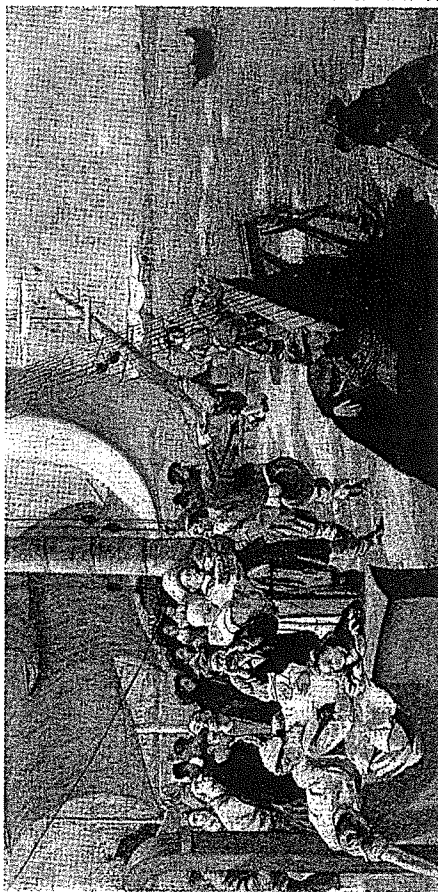
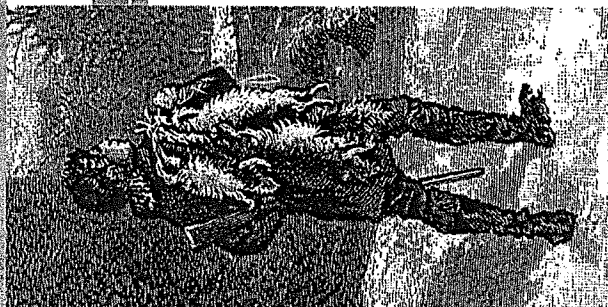
portage
voyageur
coureur de bois

PEOPLE

Samuel de Champlain
Jacques Marquette
Louis Jolliet
Robert La Salle
Jean Baptiste Pointe du Sable

PLACES

St. Lawrence River
Canada
New France
Quebec
Louisiana
St. Louis
Detroit
Chicago



THE FRENCH COLONIES

Furs were in great demand in France. New France's forests were filled with fur-skinned animals. So in the early 1600s France began to think about

starting a colony there to help their fur trading business. A colony would also make it easier to continue their search for a Northwest Passage, which you read about in Chapter 7.

In 1608 a French geographer and explorer named Samuel de Champlain (duh sham PLAYN) founded a trading post called Quebec (kwih BEK) on the St. Lawrence River. Quebec was the first permanent French settlement in North America.

The Huron and the French

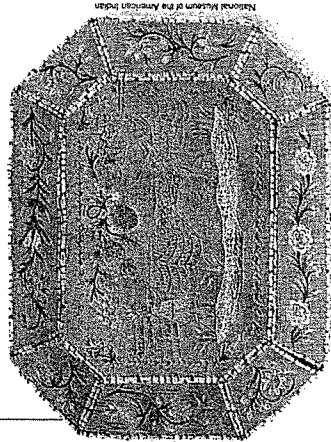
Champlain knew that France's success in the fur trade depended on its Native American trading partners. Champlain made friends with the Huron near Quebec. He learned their language and respected their ways.

The French also sent missionaries to New France. Unlike most of the Spanish, the French did not, for the most part, force Native Americans to

work for them or to live in French missions. Instead, the black-robed French missionaries lived in Huron villages in order to convert them to the Roman Catholic religion.

In 1609 the Huron agreed to supply Champlain with furs if he would help them defeat their rivals in the fur trade, the Iroquois. The French agreed. In return, the Huron helped the French increase their fur-trading business and remained their allies for many years. However, the Iroquois never forgot their defeat at the hands of the Huron and the French.

Champlain (above) is called "the Father of New France." The Huron tray (below) was stitched with moosehair.



NEW FRANCE

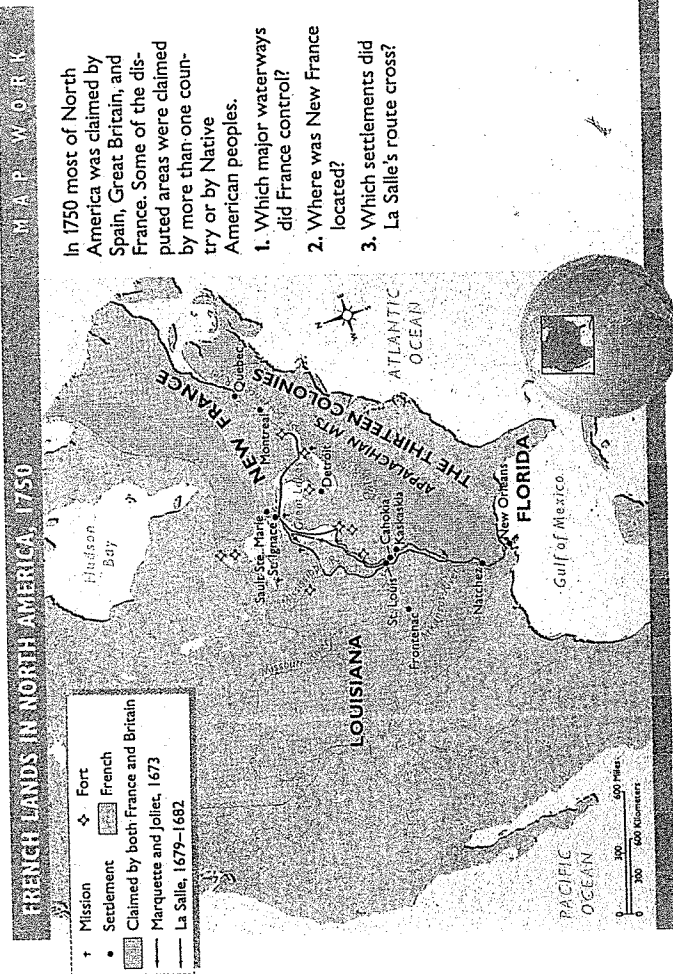
France's attempts to encourage settlement in New France during the 1600s were not successful. French colonists were not allowed to own land, and farming in Canada's cold climate was difficult. In addition, only Catholics were allowed to settle in New France. As a result, the French who did come to New France were mainly fur traders and missionaries. By 1660 there were fewer than 3,000 French colonists living in Canada.

Marquette and Jolliet

Although Champlain made many explorations into Canada, he failed to find a Northwest Passage. Many other French explorers had also tried. One of them was Jacques Marquette (ZHAHK mahr KET). While working as

a missionary in what is today the state of Michigan, Marquette heard Native Americans tell of a mighty river to the west. Could this river be the long-sought-for Northwest Passage?

In 1673 Marquette and a former fur trader named Louis Jolliet (LOO ee JOH LEE et), set out together to find the river Marquette had heard about—the Mississippi River. Marquette told of entering its waters "with a joy I cannot express." You can trace the route of Marquette and Jolliet on the map below. After a long while, when they had reached the Arkansas River, they saw that the Mississippi flowed south. Since the river did not flow west toward the Pacific Ocean, Marquette and Jolliet realized it could not be a Northwest Passage. They decided to return to Lake Michigan.



266 MAP WORK: 1. St. Lawrence River, Great Lakes, Mississippi River, Missouri River 2. north-eastern North America 3. St. Ignace, Cahokia, Kaskaskia, Natchez, New Orleans



Because of its easy access to the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes, Chicago (left and below), founded by Du Sable, grew to become a major transportation center.



Robert La Salle

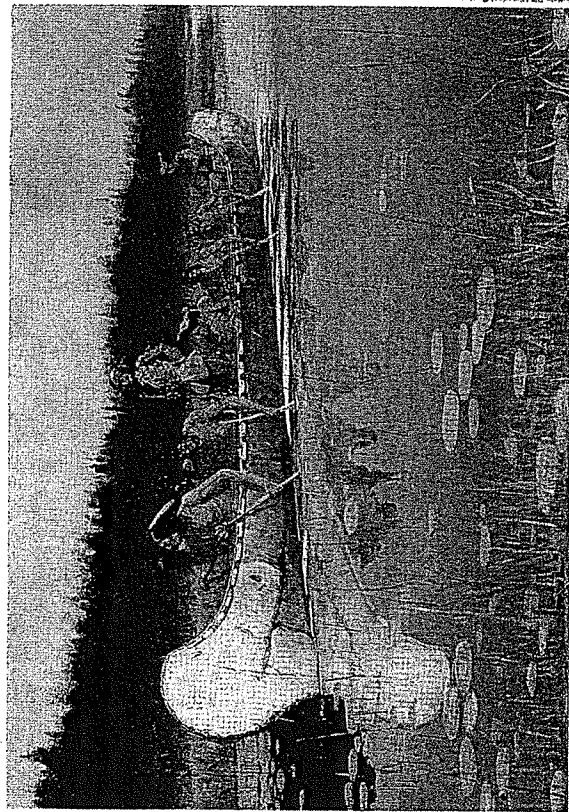
The French explorer Robert La Salle (lah SAHL) learned of Marquette and Jolliet's journey. In 1682 he set out to find the mouth of the Mississippi River. Near the Arkansas River, La Salle met the Quapaw (KWAH pah). With their help he reached the Gulf of Mexico. La Salle became the first European to see the mouth of the Mississippi River. La Salle claimed the Mississippi River valley for France. He named it Louisiana after King Louis XIV of France. Find Louisiana on the map on page 266.

Settlements in New France

During the late 1600s and early 1700s, the French built forts, missions, and other settlements in New France. Some were built to keep the English from moving into French lands. Some settlements later became major cities.

In 1700 French priests built a mission along the Mississippi River in what is today Missouri. A trading post was soon added. Over the years it grew into the city of St. Louis. In 1701 the French built a trading post along the Detroit River between Lake Huron and Lake Erie. This trading post later became the city of Detroit.

On their return trip, Marquette and Jolliet had used a portage that connected the Mississippi River to the Great Lakes. A portage is a land route from one body of water to another. In the 1770s a Haitian fur trader named Jean Baptiste Point du Sable (ZHAHN bap TEEST PWAN doo SAH bluh) built a trading post along this portage. He became friendly with the Potawatomi who lived around the Great Lakes. The trading post Du Sable built grew to become the city of Chicago.



Shiloh Hill Historical Center

THE FUR TRADE

The fur trade was important to New France. In Europe, the forests had been overhunted for many years, which made fur-skinned animals rare. In addition, beaver hats had become very popular. The money to be made from furs such as beaver fur attracted many trappers and traders to North America.

Trading Posts

By the early 1700s there was a vast network of forts and trading posts in New France. Trappers who often lived in the forests for months at a time to sell or trade furs came to the trading posts for other goods as well.

Fur traders went to the forests and bought furs from French and Native American trappers. The furs were then transported to Quebec by voyageurs (vwah yah ZHURZ). The voyageurs were people who carried furs and other goods from post

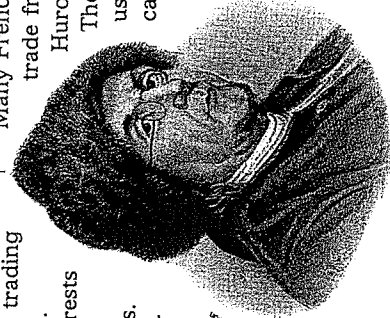
to post by canoe. From Quebec the furs were shipped to France.

The Coureurs de Bois

France granted only a few people the right to trap and trade in its American colonies. As a result, many trappers became coureurs de bois (KUR rer duh BWAH), which means "woods runners" in French. The coureur de bois trapped furs without permission from the French government. Because colonists could not own land, becoming a coureur de bois was the only way many of them could earn a living.

Many French trappers learned their trade from people such as the Huron, Chippewa, and Ottawa.

They taught the French to use lightweight birchbark canoes that traveled quickly along rivers and lakes.



The furs traded by the coureurs de bois (above) were made into hats like this one worn by Franklin (left).

These also taught the French trappers how to survive in the forests.

An adventurous life attracted many voyageurs and coureurs de bois. According to one voyageur:

There is no life so happy as a voyageur's life; none so independent; no place where a man enjoys so much variety and freedom.

WHY IT MATTERS

By building settlements throughout New France, the French surrounded English lands in North America. As a result, the 13 English colonies had no way to expand. By the middle of the 1700s, the French had won many Native American allies. The voyageurs and coureurs de bois helped to form strong partnerships with them. In the next lesson you will see how the French, English, and Native Americans fought to control much of North America.

Links to LANGUAGE ARTS

Parlez-vous français?

Parlez-vous français? (PAHR lay VOO frahn SAY) means "Do you speak French?" You may know more French words than you think. As you learned in Chapter 4, the Iroquois call themselves the Hodenosaunee.

The French called them the Iroquois, and that name stuck. The Wyandot are also generally known by their French name—Huron. Until recently most people called the Lakota by their French name—the Sioux.

Other French words are now part of the English language. Among them are *glacier*, *plateau*, *lacrosse*, and *prairie*.



Doghouse, Inc. Prairie dog

THINK ABOUT IT

1. Who were some of the French explorers who came to North America? Why did they come?
2. How did Native Americans such as the Huron help the French?
3. **FOCUS** How did the fur trade shape the growth of New France?
4. **THINKING SKILL** Compare and contrast the French and the English colonies of North America.
5. **GEOGRAPHY** Look at the map of New France on page 266. Plot a route that a voyageur might have taken from St. Louis to Quebec. Then list the trading posts where a fur trapper might have stopped.

Reviewing Facts and Ideas

SUM IT UP

- Samuel Champlain built the first permanent French settlement in North America, called Quebec, in 1608.
- Explorations by Marquette and Jolliet in 1673, and by La Salle in 1682, led to French control of the entire Mississippi River valley.
- By the early 1700s France had a vast network of forts and trading posts throughout North America.
- The fur trade became a source of wealth for the French, who developed good relations with their Native American trading partners.



LESSON 3

1600 1640 1680 1720 1754 1763

THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

READ ALOUD

George Washington, a 21-year-old lieutenant, looked out over his troops. British and Virginian soldiers marched stiffly in neat rows in red and blue coats. Washington was worried. The troops were an awe-some sight. However, they also made an easy target for the enemy. The enemy was not marching in neat rows or wearing bright uniforms. Scattered throughout the forests, the enemy was hard to find.

Focus Activity

READ TO LEARN

What were the results of the French and Indian War?

VOCABULARY

French and Indian War
Treaty of Paris
Proclamation of 1763

PEOPLE

George Washington
Edward Braddock
Pontiac
King George III

PLACES

Ohio River valley
Fort Duquesne
Fort Necessity
New Orleans

THE OHIO RIVER VALLEY

The Ohio River valley lies mostly in what is now the Middle Western region of the United States. Both Britain and France claimed the land in the Ohio River valley. Until the middle of the 1700s, the Native Americans who lived there had kept both groups of colonists from settling in the valley. Then disputes among themselves and with the colonists led some Native Americans in the valley to sell their land to the British colonists. Fearing the loss of the fur trade, the French began building a series of forts in the valley to keep the British out.

Fort Duquesne and Fort Necessity

In 1754 young George Washington was sent by the British to force the French to leave the Ohio River valley. There the French had built Fort Duquesne (doo KAIN) where the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, stands today. The British colony of Virginia also claimed this land in the valley.

When Washington arrived, his troops attacked and defeated a small force of French soldiers in the woods near the fort. This short battle marked the beginning of the French and Indian War. An excited Washington wrote home, "I heard the bullets whistle; and believe me, there is something charming in the sound."

Washington's troops quickly built a temporary fort out of logs and called it Fort Necessity. Soon a larger French army attacked the fort, and Washington's men were defeated.

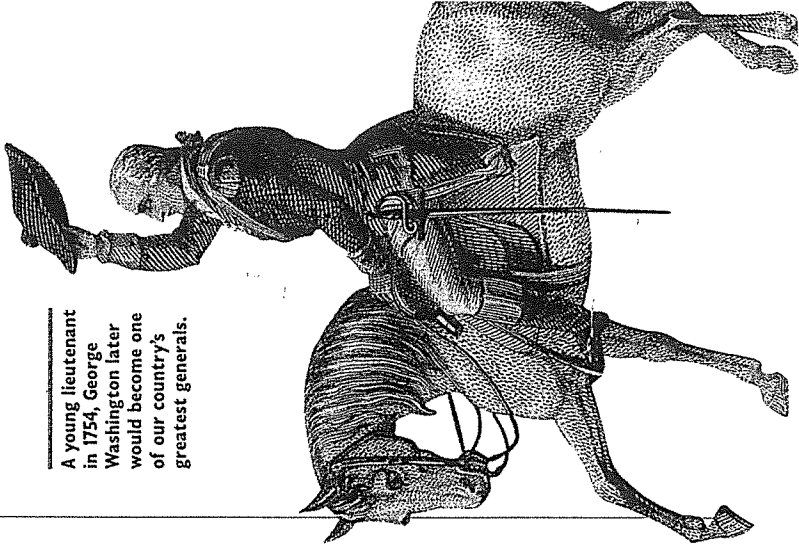
General Braddock's Defeat

In 1755 the British tried again to capture Fort Duquesne. This time General Edward Braddock led the troops.

Braddock's soldiers were all trained. He felt they would easily win the battle. Yet as the British neared the fort, the bullets seemed to come from out of nowhere. Braddock's troops "broke and ran as sheep pursued by dogs," Washington wrote. Braddock himself died four days later from wounds he had received.

Washington learned an important lesson from Braddock's defeat. The French were using Native American methods of warfare. They made surprise attacks on the British from behind trees, large rocks—anywhere they could hide. The British and colonial soldiers' brightly colored jackets only made it easier for the French to take aim.

A young lieutenant in 1754, George Washington later would become one of our country's greatest generals.



TIDE TURNS

Because British colonists greatly outnumbered them, French colonists had welcomed the help of the Huron. Washington had seen what valuable allies Native Americans could be. The British decided to ask the Iroquois for help.

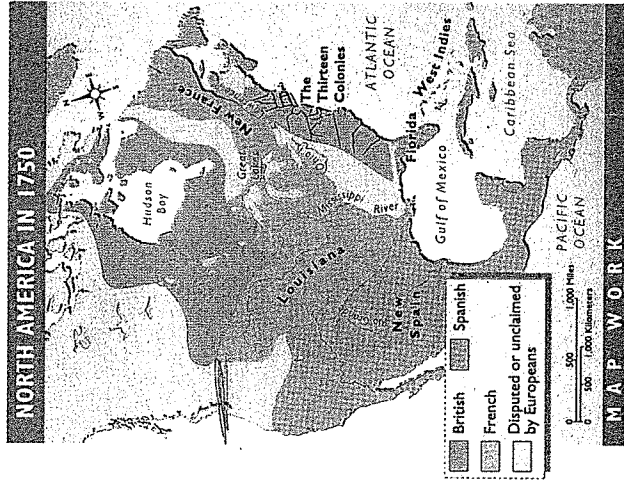
The Iroquois were not eager to side with the British. While French settlements were few and scattered, British colonists had taken over much Iroquois land. "You have disregarded us, thrown us behind your back," said Tiyanoga (tith an OH guh), a Mohawk leader. Still, the Iroquois decided to join the British

against their old enemies, the Huron and the French. In return the British promised to keep colonists away from Iroquois lands.

Britain Wins the War

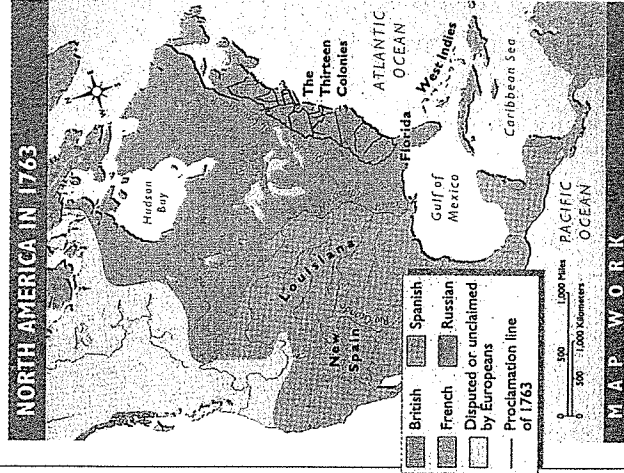
The French won victory after victory over the British until 1758. Then Britain began to pour money into winning the war. It bought new equipment and sent more troops and its best generals to the colonies. These resources helped Britain to win the war.

In 1762, as the war was ending, France gave Spain much of Louisiana to keep it out of Britain's hands. This



In 1750 North America was divided between Spain, France, and Great Britain.

1. Who claimed the colony of Florida?
2. About how much of North America was claimed by Great Britain?



After the French and Indian War, France lost almost all of its land in North America.

1. What parts of North America did Great Britain gain at the end of the war?
2. Which country claimed Louisiana?



Pontiac's request of his followers to "bury their hatchets" helped to end Pontiac's Rebellion in 1763.

agreement included the city of New Orleans, an important port in the French fur trade.

In 1763 Britain and France signed the Treaty of Paris, which officially ended the French and Indian War. As you can see from the maps on page 274, Great Britain gained almost all of France's lands in North America. Because Spain had been an ally of France in the war, Britain also gained the Spanish colony of Florida.

Pontiac's Rebellion

When the war ended, British colonists again began moving west into the Ohio River valley. An Ottawa chief named Pontiac (PAHN tee ak) urged the Native Americans there to "drive off your land those . . . who will do you nothing but harm."

Pontiac asked the Native Americans of the Ohio Valley to unite in order to fight the British. In 1763 they captured and burned British settlements but were soon defeated by the British army.

WHY IT MATTERS

Pontiac's Rebellion made King George III realize that protecting the colonists from conflict with Native Americans would be costly. As a result, he issued

the Proclamation of 1763. This proclamation, or official announcement, gave all land east of the Appalachian Mountains to the colonists. Lands west of the mountains would be set aside for Native Americans "as their hunting grounds." This would give control of the fur trade there to Britain. The colonists did not like being closed off from the western lands and the fur trade. They were also beginning to dislike British rule.

Reviewing Facts and Ideas

SUM IT UP

- In 1754 Britain and France began fighting for control of the Ohio River valley in the French and Indian War.
- By winning the war in 1763, Britain gained control of Florida, Canada, and almost all of New France.
- In response to Pontiac's Rebellion, George III issued the Proclamation of 1763, which granted the rights to lands in the Ohio River valley to the Native Americans who lived there.

THINK ABOUT IT

1. Why were the British soldiers easy targets at Fort Duquesne?
2. Why did Native Americans unite under Pontiac to fight the British?
3. **FOCUS** How did North America change as a result of the French and Indian War?

4. THINKING SKILL Based upon the maps shown on page 274, what conclusions can you make about France's influence in North America?

5. **WRITE** Write a letter to a relative from the point of view of a British colonist in 1754. Explain how the French and Indian War is affecting your life.