**The French & Indian War Timeline**

**How It All Went Down**

Nov 1, 1753

**Washington to Ohio Valley**

Twenty-one year old Major George Washington departs Williamsburg, Virginia for the Ohio Valley. Virginia's governor Robert Dinwiddie has sent Washington to [order](http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/time/cp/90613.htm%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) the French to abandon the string of forts they are building between Lake Erie and the Forks of the Ohio River (the confluence of the Ohio, Monongahela, and Allegheny Rivers).

May 28, 1754

**Washington Defeats French**

Lt. Colonel George Washington, having returned to the Ohio Valley with a regiment of Virginia provincial troops, defeats a French force near the Great Meadows. After the battle, Washington's Indian allies, led by the Seneca chief Tanaghrisson, attack the French captives, killing the French commander and scalping the wounded.

**Washington Surrenders**

A French force of 700 [attacks](http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/time/cp/90613.htm%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) George Washington and his 400 troops at Fort Necessity in retaliation for the massacre of the French at the Great Meadows. Washington is forced to surrender and leave the Ohio Valley.

Jul 9, 1755

**Battle of the Wilderness**

British General Edward Braddock is mortally wounded and his force of British regulars and provincial troops is defeated at the [Battle of the Wilderness](http://www.hsp.org/default.aspx?id=622" \t "_blank), also known as the Battle of the Monongahela.

Aug 18, 1755

**Shirley Abandons**

Massachusetts Governor and acting General [William Shirley](http://nndb.com/people/293/000101987/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) and a force of 2,500 recently recruited colonists reach Fort Oswego, on the southeastern end of Lake Ontario. They planned to attack Fort Niagara at the western end of the lake, but poor leadership and mass desertions force Shirley to abandon the campaign.

Sep 8, 1755

**Indians Abandon British**

[William Johnson](http://www.thousandislandslife.com/SirWilliam.jpg%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the northern colonies, defeats the British at the Battle of Lake George. But British resistance prevents his advancing further to Crown Point at the southern tip of Lake Champlain, as planned. Instead, he builds [Fort William Henry](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/22/Plan_of_Fort_William_Henry_on_Lake_George.jpg%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) at the southern tip of Lake George. The Mohawks abandon their alliance with the British after this battle; the other nations within the Iroquois League adopt an informal position of neutrality.

May 8, 1756

**Britain and France War**

Britain and France officially declare war against one another. According to the terms arranged in existing treaties of alliance, Prussia immediately enters the war on the side of Britain. Austria, Sweden, and Russia are allied with France. This European conflict will be labeled the [Seven Years' War](http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=498" \t "_blank).

Aug 14, 1756

**Fort Oswego**

French forces, under the [marquis de Montcalm](http://www.militaryheritage.com/montcalm.htm%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), newly appointed commander
of all French forces in North America, captures Fort Oswego, strengthening French control over the Great Lakes.

Jun 29, 1757

**British Commit**

[William Pitt](http://www.clpgh.org/exhibit/neighborhoods/point/point_n104.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) is named British secretary of state. He will commit the British government to the allocation of whatever resources are necessary to defeat the French in America and on the European continent. He will authorize the raising of 23,000 provincial troops in North America in 1758, and will end squabbling over taxation by guaranteeing the colonial assemblies that Parliament will cover all expenses.

Aug 9, 1757

**Fort William Henry**

French [General Montcalm](http://www.militaryheritage.com/montcalm.htm%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) forces the surrender of the British garrison at Fort William Henry after a six-day siege. Despite being guaranteed safe passage by Montcalm, British troops and civilians are [attacked](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File%3AMontcalm_trying_to_stop_the_massacre.jpg%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) as they abandon the fort by France's Indian allies. More than 150 are killed and 500 are taken captive to be held for ransom.

Jul 8, 1758

**British Big Defeat**

The British suffer a humiliating and costly defeat at [Fort Carrillon](http://www.americanrevolution.com/images/BlackWatch.jpg%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), despite outnumbering French forces by four to one. The British suffer almost 2,000 casualties.

Jul 26, 1758

**British Capture Port**

The British capture [Louisbourg](http://faculty.marianopolis.edu/c.belanger/quebechistory/encyclopedia/TheSevenYearsWar-FrenchandIndianWar-TheFallofLouisbourg.htm%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), a French port on Nova Scotia. With this victory, the British are able to severely restrict French supply lines flowing down the Saint Lawrence River.

Aug 27, 1758

**Fort Frontenac**

The British capture Fort Frontenac on Lake Ontario, further disrupting French supply lines to its interior posts.

Oct 21, 1758

**Treaty of Easton**

The [Treaty of Easton](http://www.explorepahistory.com/story.php?storyId=6&chapter=4" \t "_blank) is signed between the British and several Indian nations, including the Iroquois League and the Ohio Indians. In return for peace, the British promise to renegotiate the Walking Purchase of 1737, through which the Iroquois gave away Delaware lands in western Pennsylvania to the British colony. They also promise to build a trading post at the Forks of the Ohio River and to prohibit white settlement west of the Allegheny Mountains.

Nov 23, 1758

**Fort Duquesne**

The French abandon and destroy [Fort Duquesne](http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=705" \t "_blank). The French commander realizes that the fort will be overrun by Brigadier General John Forbes's force of 5,000 men—especially after the Ohio Indians, France's former allies, conclude a peace treaty with the British at Easton.

Jul 25, 1759

**Fort Niagara**

British forces under General John Prideaux capture [Fort Niagara](http://www.niagarahistorical.museum/images/fortniagara.jpg%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), completely severing contact between French garrisons in eastern Canada and their posts south of Lake Erie.

Jul 26, 1759

**Hudson River**

The French abandon Fort Carrillon when it is besieged by British General Jeffery Amherst. As they retreat, the French also destroy their fort as Crown Point. The British now control Lake Champlain and therefore the Hudson River corridor. They will rebuild Fort Carrillon and rename it Fort Ticonderoga.

Sep 13, 1759

**Plains of Abraham**

General [James Wolfe](http://www.militaryheritage.com/wolfe.htm%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) lands a force of British troops above [Quebec](http://www.earlyamerica.com/earlyamerica/maps/quebecmap/map.jpg%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) and attacks the city across the Plains of Abraham. In the ensuing battle, the British suffer fewer than 700 casualties, the French more than 1,800. The French are forced to abandon the city and retreat to Montreal. Wolfe is killed in battle.

Sep 8, 1760

**French Surrender**

Governor-General Vaudreuil of New France surrenders [Montreal](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1ARTA0010703" \t "_blank), the last French stronghold in North America, without firing a shot when a British army of 17,500 British regulars, American provincial troops, and Indians converge on the city from three directions.

Feb 10, 1763

**French Indian War Ends**

The [Treaty of Paris](http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/paris763.htm%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) is ratified, ending the French and Indian War. Signed on 3 November 1762, the treaty's ratification has been delayed by critics, including William Pitt, who believe its terms are too lenient. In the treaty, France surrenders all of its former North American territories east of the Mississippi River to Britain, except New Orleans. Canada is also ceded to Great Britain. Spain, a late entrant into the war as an ally of France, surrenders Florida to Britain. As compensation, Britain returns Cuba, which it captured during the war, to Spain. Britain also returns to France most of the sugar islands in the Caribbean that it seized during the war. In a separate treaty, France cedes its territory west of the Mississippi River to Spain.