

## Unit 1

# Who Were the People Involved?

*“Nature itself has conspired to render the River Ohio hereabouts a place of consequence of all the people in North America that are within reach of it...”*  
—Cartographer John Mitchell, 1755<sup>2</sup>

### Background for the Teacher

Read the “Who Were the People Involved?” section of the Teacher Background on the French and Indian War, pages 15-16. Also read the Teacher Background on Eastern Woodland America Indian Life, pages 28-33.

The French and Indian War brought together three powers – the British, the French, and the American Indians (from many nations). The conflict began over the Ohio River Valley, which was principally inhabited by the Seneca (who were members of the Iroquois Confederacy), the Shawnee, and the Lenape (LEN-ah-pay) or Delaware. Understanding something about these three powers is important before students begin to learn about the war.

### Key Teaching Points

- The geographic location of the Ohio River Valley
- The Ohio River Valley was inhabited by three principle American Indian nations
- The American Indian economy was based on having enough land to farm and enough forest to hunt in. They also depended on trade with the Europeans for many items that had become part of their lives
- The Iroquois Confederacy was very powerful and sent representatives to advise all the American Indians in the Ohio River Valley
- The French colonies’ geographic location
- The French colonial economy was based on trade with the American Indians
- The geographic location of the British colonies
- The British colonial economy was based on farming, and their population was growing

### Activities in This Unit

#### “The Forks of the Ohio”

- This mapping activity, helps students see the spheres of influence of each of the three powers. It also helps students focus on why control of the Forks of the Ohio became so important in the war.

#### “A Much Clearer Picture”

- This will help students understand the American Indians. By doing research and incorporating what they have learned, they will gain a much clearer picture of the American Indians’ history and way of life.



Map of the Forks of the Ohio, 1754

<sup>2</sup> Paul E. Kopperman, Braddock on the Monongahela. (Pittsburgh, 1977), 20.



# The Forks of the Ohio

## Standards

### National History Standards

K-4 Topic 2: 3A, 3B, 3D

US Era 2: 1B

### National Geography Standards

1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 12, 15

In this activity, your students will learn about the geography of the Ohio River Valley. They will learn about the location of the conflict and the powers involved.

## Procedure

1. Hand out a copy of the “Forks of the Ohio” Map and Activity Worksheet for each student.
2. Have the students complete the worksheet.
3. Have students keep their maps for use in the next activity.
4. Review some key points about the map.

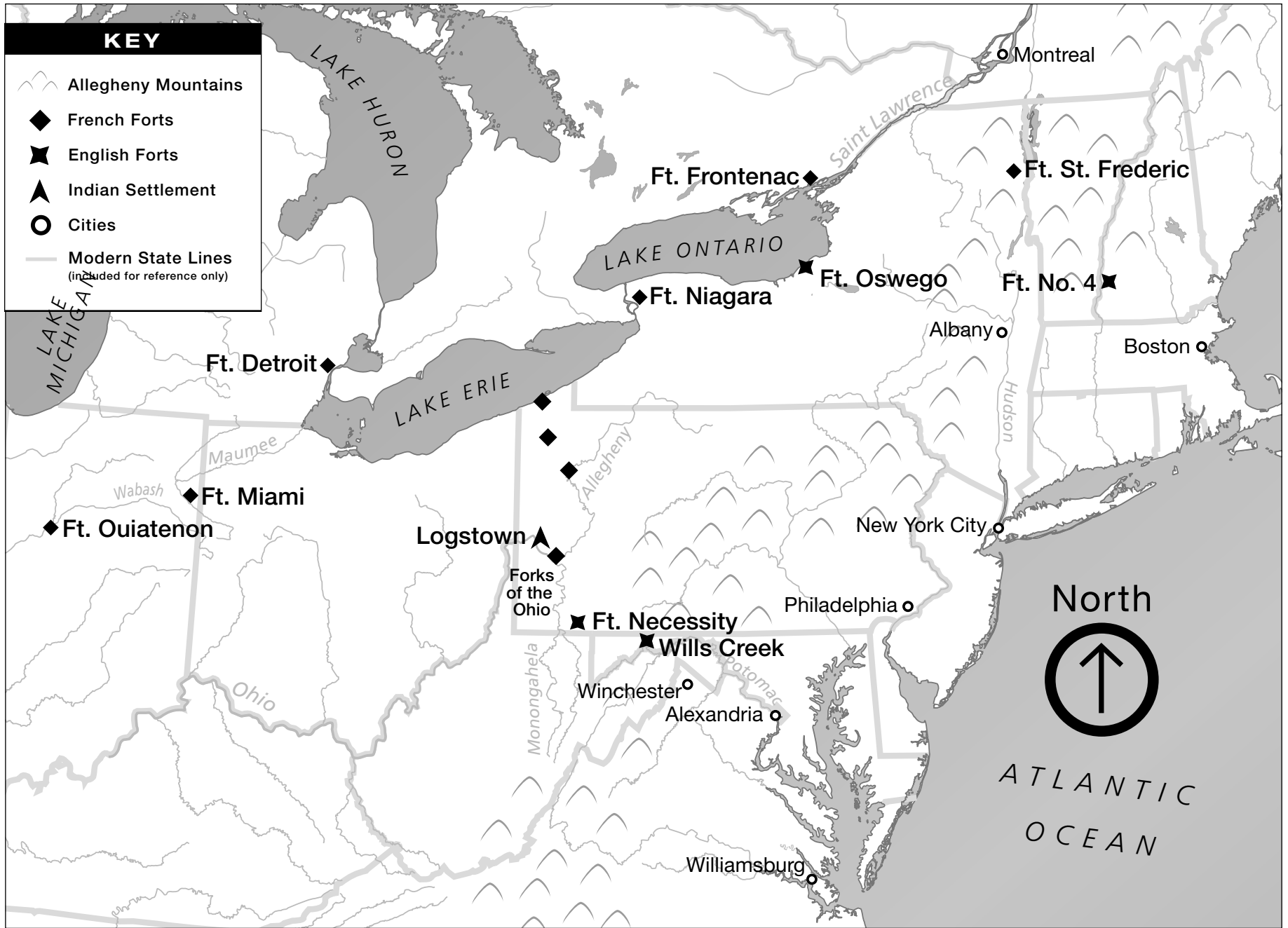
## Materials You’ll Need

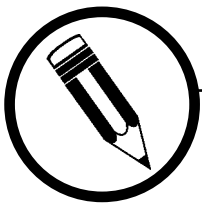
- 1 copy of the “Forks of the Ohio” Map for each student
- 1 copy of the Activity Worksheet “Forks of the Ohio” for each student
- Crayons for each student

## Teacher Key



# Forks of the Ohio - 1754





## Activity Worksheet

# The Forks of the Ohio

- 1** On the map, color Britain's North American colonies red. The colonies were settled between the Allegheny Mountains and the Atlantic Ocean. The mountains were the western boundary of colonial settlement.
- 2** On the map, color the French colonies of New France blue. The French colonies were located north of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, and the St. Lawrence River. They were also located north of the Maumee (mah-MEE) River and the Wabash River.
- 3** The nations of the Iroquois Confederacy lived south of Lake Ontario and west of the mountains. This area is about as big as Lake Ontario. Color this area yellow.
- 4** Locate the Allegheny River and the Monongahela (meh-NON-gah-HAY-lah) River. The place where the two rivers come together to form the Ohio River was called the Forks of the Ohio. It is now the site of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Circle the Forks of the Ohio.
- 5** The area drained by the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio Rivers was called the Ohio River Valley. It was located between the French colonies and the British colonies. This was where many Seneca, Delaware, and Shawnee lived. The French and the British were fighting over this land. Color the area drained by the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio Rivers orange.
- 6** There were no European towns or roads in the woods of the Ohio River Valley. There were many Seneca, Delaware, and Shawnee settlements and trails. Find Logstown on the map. Circle it.
- 7** The French began building forts southward from Lake Erie. Label the four unmarked French forts on your map. Fort Presque Isle (presk eyel) is the northern most fort, located on Lake Erie. Fort LeBoeuf (luh-BOOF) was the fort just south of Fort Presque Isle. Venango was the third post south of Lake Erie (later called Fort Machault (mah-SHOH)). Fort Duquesne (dyoo-KAYN) was located at the Forks of the Ohio.
- 8** With a blue crayon trace over the Maumee River from Lake Erie to Fort Miami, then over land to the Wabash River and down the river. This was the main transportation route used by the French between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River.



## A Much Clearer Picture

### Standards

#### National History Standards

K-4 Topic 2: 3A, 3D

K-4 Topic 3: 5A

US Era 2: 1B

#### National Geography Standards

4, 6, 9, 10

### Materials You'll Need

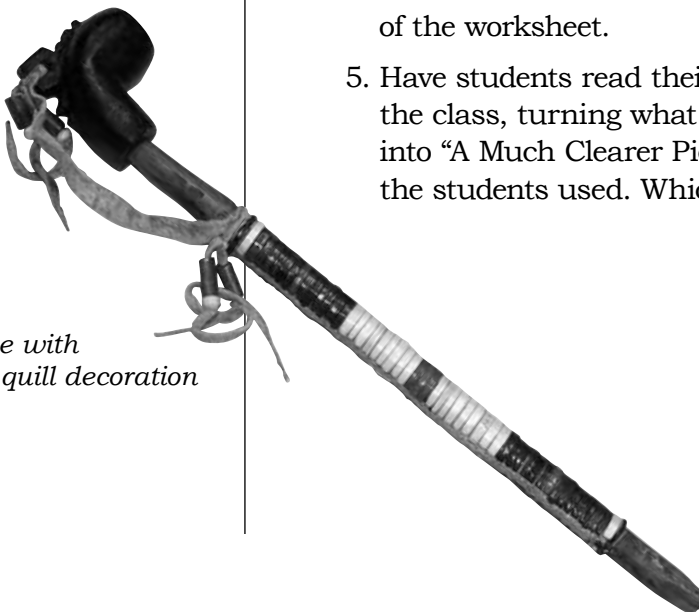
- 1 copy of the Activity Worksheet “A Much Clearer Picture” for each student.
- Biography cards, American history textbooks, reference books, computers linked to the internet.

This reading and writing activity will help students learn more about Eastern Woodland Indians before and after European contact. It will help students practice researching information using reference books and the internet, and communicating that information to the class.

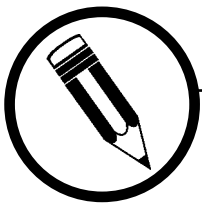
This can be a library lesson. If you have a school librarian, you may want to have her/him talk about library reference books and internet search tools.

### Procedure

1. The Activity Worksheet has information about the Eastern Woodland Indians before and during the French and Indian War. The information is divided into four paragraphs.
2. Read all the information with students.
3. After you and the students read the information together, assign the individual paragraphs to small groups of students. (You may have several groups working on each paragraph).
4. Ask the students to use the reference tools at your school (biography cards, text books, reference books, the internet) to research and write three new facts that add new information to their assigned paragraph. The new facts should be written in paragraph form. Have students write down the sources for each of the facts on the back of the worksheet.
5. Have students read their original and new paragraphs to the class, turning what the Activity Worksheet gave them into “A Much Clearer Picture.” Discuss the reference tools the students used. Which did they find the best?



*Indian pipe with porcupine quill decoration*



# Activity Worksheet

## A Much Clearer Picture



Here are some facts about American Indians in the Ohio River Valley before and after the French and Indian War. You are going to do some research and add more information. This will give you “A Much Clearer Picture” of what life was like for American Indians in the 1700s.

**1** Many nations lived in the Ohio River Valley in the 1700s. The three largest were the Seneca, the Lenape (LEN-ah-pay) or the Delaware, and the Shawnee.

American Indians wanted to live as they always had. They wanted to hunt, farm, and live in villages. The Ohio River Valley was just right for these nations. It had forests and water for hunting and fishing. It had trees for building homes. It had flat areas for farming. It had rivers that could be used for traveling.

These American Indians were good hunters and farmers. They lived close to nature. They used the animals and plants around them for food, clothing, medicine, and shelter. They traded with the French and the British for other items they wanted. The Seneca were members of the Iroquois Confederacy.

**Find three more facts about how the American Indians in the Ohio River Valley lived in the 1700s.** (Some ideas of what to look for: Find information about American Indian houses. Learn what they ate, how they dressed, or what they believed. Learn more about the Iroquois Confederacy. Find out what languages were spoken by the Seneca, Delaware, and Shawnee.)



---

---

---

**2** Long before they moved to the Ohio River Valley, American Indians had dealt with European colonists. In fact, the Shawnee and Delaware moved to the area because settlers had come to their homelands in the east. In the Ohio River Valley at that time, there were no settlers.

There were British and French traders in the area. The traders bought furs and food from the American Indians. In exchange, the traders sold things like cloth, metal, and firearms.

American Indians wanted to trade. The items they traded for made their lives easier. Traders wanted trading to continue as well. They could make a lot of money from trading.





However, there had been tensions over land since the 1600s. Usually, when settlers moved into an area, they moved American Indians off the land.

**Find three more facts about how American Indians interacted with the French and the British during the early and mid-1700s.** (Some ideas of what to look for: Find information about what items the American Indians traded with the French and the British. Learn what goods the American Indians got in return. Find out how the American Indians got along with the French and the British. Study how the coming of the Europeans changed the way the American Indians lived.)

---

---

---



**3** American Indians were good warriors and scouts. In the battles of the French and Indian War, both the French and the British wanted their support. American Indians often made the difference between who won a battle and who lost.

How did the American Indians decide whom they would support? They looked at what each side had to offer. Sometimes, they sided with the French. Other times, they sided with the British.

They really wanted to live as they always had. They wanted to trade with Europeans but not have the Europeans living on their land.

The British finally won the war. They took control of all the land between the Allegheny Mountains and the Mississippi River.

**Find three more facts about the American Indians during the French and Indian War.** (Some ideas of what to look for: Find the names of other American Indian nations involved in the war. Learn about some of the chiefs. Find out what battles the American Indians were in. Study how they fought.)

---

---

---



**4** Most of the American Indians who lived in the Ohio River Valley were forced off their land after the war. They tried hard for many years to save their land and their way of life. However by 1760, settlers moved in from the east. The settlers built their new homes without thinking about who else might have a claim to the land.

Where did the American Indians go? Many moved west into Ohio and Illinois. Many died of disease and hunger. Today, many live in communities and on tribal lands in the U.S. and Canada.

**Find three new facts about what happened to American Indians in the Ohio River Valley after 1760.** (Some ideas of what to look for: Study the American Indian leaders who tried to keep the land. Find out about Tecumseh, Pontiac, Seneca Chief Cornplanter, and Delaware Chief White Eyes. Find some facts about how the Shawnee, Delaware, and Seneca nations live today.)

---

---

---