The Colonies Fight for Their Rights

Objective: To learn how the French and Indian War created tensions between the colonists and the British.
The French and Indian War

- The French and Indian War was a part of a larger conflict, called the 7 Years War.
- In the 1740s, the British and French both became interested in the Ohio River Valley.
Causes of French and Indian War

- The French began to build forts in the region to block the British from settling the Ohio River Valley.
- The French also seized an almost completed British fort and built Fort Duquesne on the site.
- British troops led by George Washington had a brief skirmish with the French and then retreated and built Fort Necessity.
The Albany Conference

- Colonial leaders met with the Iroquois confederacy who agreed to remain neutral in the fighting.
- Benjamin Franklin developed the **Albany Plan of Union**, which was a failed attempt to unite the colonies under a federal government.
The British Triumph

- The French and Indian allies defeated the British at the first battle near Fort Duquesne.
- The British Fleet cut off the flow of supplies and reinforcements from France.
- The British under James Wolfe sailed to Quebec City and defeated the French led by General Louis Joseph Montcalm.
- Under the terms of the Treaty of Paris, France lost all claims to mainland North America.
Pontiac led a united Ottawa, Delaware, and Wyandot attack on several British forts after settlers were moving into western Pennsylvania.

This led to the **Royal Proclamation of 1763**, which drew a line along the Appalachian Mountains and declared that no colonists could settle west of the line without British government’s permission.
Customs Reform and New Taxes

- George Grenville (Chancellor of the Exchequer), realized that colonist merchants were not paying custom duties (taxes on imports and exports).
- Grenville also introduced the Sugar Act, which was a tax on raw sugar, molasses, silk, wine, coffee and indigo.
- Colonists believed that the act violated several traditional English rights, including “taxation without representation”.
- Congress also passed the Currency Act of 1764, which banned the use of paper money in the colonies because it tended to lose its value quickly.
Stamp Act Crisis

- Parliament passed the **Stamp Act** in March 1765, which required stamps to be bought and placed on most printed materials, such as newspapers, pamphlets, wills, and playing cards.

- Parliament also passed the **Quartering Act**, which required colonists to provide housing for British troops.

- In October 1765, these acts led representatives from nine of the colonies to meet for what became known as the **Stamp Act Congress**.

- They declared that only the colonists’ political representatives had the right to tax them.

- The colonies began to boycott all goods made in Britain.

- Parliament repealed the Stamp Act after thousands of British workers lost their jobs.
The Townshend Acts

- Parliament passed the **Declaratory Act**, which said that the colonies were subordinate to the British Parliament.
- Parliament passed the Revenue Act of 1767 which put tax on glass, lead, paint and tea.
- This Revenue Act also legalized the **writs of assistance**, which said that custom officers were allowed to enter any location to look for evidence of smuggling.
- Colonial legislation such as the Massachusetts assembly and the Virginia House of Burgesses called on colonists to boycott British goods, including tea and cloth.
The Boston Massacre

- British sent 1,000 troops to Boston to maintain order.
- On March 5th, 1770, a group of colonists began harassing and throwing snowballs at British soldiers guarding a customs house.
- This led to British soldiers firing into the crowd, killing 5 colonists and wounding 6.
- This incident became known as the **Boston Massacre**.
- Colonial newspapers portrayed the British as tyrants and Parliament repealed all of the Townshend Acts except the tax on tea.
Boston Massacre