



What's Up with the French and Indian War?

Characters: Needed: Six students (1 narrator and 5 sitting in a group talking.)

Setting (Narrator at the computer with a page on the "French and Indian War" showing)

Topic: French and Indian War

I. Segment 1:

Narrator (*Student sitting at the computer researching the French and Indian War*):

The French and Indian War is now a part of history and involved the British, French and Native Americans. I am not quite sure of some facts for my research paper, so I am looking for more information on the computer and in the library. I heard that there is class learning about the French and Indian War; let's go find them and find out what was up with the French and Indian war!

II. Segment 2:

Set Up: (*Five students sitting like they are participating in a discussion or conversation.*)

Child 1: Well, British Colonies really started growing, so more land was needed.

Child 2: Yes... the British Colonists really felt they wanted to move west and they wanted to find more land.

Child 3: Of course however, the Native Americans did not want the British Colonists to move west.

Child 4: The Colonists had already taken much of the land the Native Americans had lived on for thousands of years.

Child 5: Of course, anyone could see this would lead to a disagreement between the Native Americans and the British Colonists.

Child 1: There were strong feelings about the land in the Ohio Valley because each group felt they had a right to settle this land. Now war was in sight!

Child 2: I wonder if they realized that the French had also claimed this land. Do you remember what Robert La Salle did when he reached the mouth of the Mississippi River?



What's Up with the French and Indian War?

Child 3: I believe he said, *"I claim this land for France"*.

Child 4: Of course, the Indians felt it was their land too! Can you imagine? The French, the Native Americans, and the British Colonies all claimed this land?

Child 5: Wow! I am sure this was shaping up to be a big fight!

Child 1: Well, as it turned out, the French refused to leave, so Washington marched westward, bringing 150 men with him. His mission was to build a British fort in an area where the two rivers came together to form the Ohio River. But when he got there he discovered that the French had already built a fort and named it fort Duquesne (doo-KAYN).

Child 2: Well did it upset him?

Child 3: Oh Yes! He was so mad. that *Washington* decided to capture the fort.

Child 4: Washington and his men did attack a small group of French soldiers before returning to their own small fort.

Child 5: Was that Fort Necessity?

Child 1: Yes... that's it! It wasn't long after that the French attacked Washington and his men.

Child 3: There were many small battles these two countries fought over this land.

Child 4: And these battles led to the big war right?

Child 5: Yes, and it was named the "French and Indian War."

Child 1: I am a little confused, so the French and Indians were fighting each other? I thought they were on the same side?

Child 2: Actually, this war could be quite confusing. But they French and Native Americans were on the same side. Together, the French and the Indians were fighting the British.

Child 3: OK, I think I understand now!



What's Up with the French and Indian War?

Child 4: The fact that the *Indians* had been friendly with the *French* just made the *British* try harder. They tried to make friends with some *Indian* tribes too.

Child 5: At first though, The Indians did not want to get involved. They said, “No way! The French and the British are fighting over lands which belong to us. The Indians knew it could end in destruction. But they did get involved eventually.

Child 5: So, who won?

Child 1: Actually for a while it looked like the French would win. Then things began to look better for the British and they ended up winning the war.

Child 2: How did the war affect the French, British Colonists, and Native Americans?

Child 3: Well the British Colonists moved west, the Native Americans lost much of their land and the French went home.

Child 4: Wow! Interesting!

Child 5: Yes it is! I am glad we had this discussion!

III. Segment 3:

Narrator (*Student sitting back at the computer researching the French and Indian War, (or) near the group like a reporter does with the kids in the background or have a French and Indian War Background showing on the projector*)

Narrator: Wow! This information helped me understand a little more about the war! I am ready to start on my research paper now! I am glad I figured out what was up with the French and Indian War!