

# A COMPARISON OF THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR AND WORLD WAR I (APUSH)



GRADES 11-12

## OVERVIEW

Students will examine various images and document excerpts to compare and contrast aspects of the Seven Years' War to World War I. In eight parts, students will write reflective responses to each image or sets of images and culminate by answering essay questions.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- \* Analyze images and text
- \* Compare and contrast aspects of two different war eras
- \* Compose reflective responses to prompts
- \* Write short essays synthesizing information from various sources

## STUDENT STANDARDS

### APUSH College Board Key Concepts

**Key Concept 2.1** – Europeans developed a variety of colonization and migration patterns, influenced by different imperial goals, cultures, and the varied North American environments where they settled, and they competed with each other and American Indians for resources.

C. Interactions between European rivals and American Indian populations fostered both accommodation and conflict. French, Dutch, British, and Spanish colonies allied with band armed American Indian groups, who frequently sought alliances with Europeans against other American Indian groups.



## STUDENT STANDARDS

**Key Concept 3.1** – The competition among the British, French, and American Indians for economic and political advantage in North America culminated in the Seven Years' War (the French and Indian War), in which Britain defeated France and allied American Indians.

A. Colonial rivalry intensified between Britain and France in the mid-18th century, as the growing population of the British colonies expanded into the interior of North America, threatening French- Indian trade networks and American Indian autonomy.

B. Britain achieved a major expansion of its territorial holdings by defeating the French, but at tremendous expense, setting the stage for imperial efforts to raise revenue and consolidate control over the colonies.

C. After the British victory, imperial officials' attempts to prevent colonists from moving westward generated colonial opposition, while native groups sought to both continue trading with Europeans and resist the encroachments of colonists on tribal lands.

**Key Concept 7.3** – Participation in a series of global conflicts propelled the United States into a position of international power while renewing domestic debates over the nation's proper role in the world.

II. World War I and its aftermath intensified ongoing debates about the nation's role in the world and how best to achieve national security and pursue American interests.

A. After initial neutrality in World War I, the nation entered the conflict, departing from the U.S. foreign policy tradition of noninvolvement in European affairs, in response to Woodrow Wilson's call for the defense of humanitarian and democratic principles.

B. Although the American Expeditionary Forces played a relatively limited role in combat, the U.S.'s entry helped to tip the balance of the conflict in favor of the Allies.



## STUDENT STANDARDS

C. Despite Wilson's deep involvement in postwar negotiations, the U.S. Senate refused to ratify the Treaty of Versailles or join the League of Nations.

D. In the years following World War I, the United States pursued a unilateral foreign policy that used international investment, peace treaties, and select military intervention to promote a vision of international order, even while maintaining U.S. isolationism.

## INTRODUCTION

Winston Churchill famously called the Seven Years' War (1756-1763) the first world war. In some regards the contrast between the mid-18th and early 20th century in technology, military tactics, and the mobilization of the civilian population seems to suggest that Churchill was drawing upon his known tendency for hyperbole. Yet both the Seven Years' War and the Great War of 1914-18 involved nearly all of the major European powers as belligerents while bringing untold thousands of colonial peoples from North America to India into the conflicts with consequences that would redefine the concept of empire. Both wars were sparked in part by botched assassinations. Both wars saw fighting on multiple continents on a scale not yet imagined. Even the iconic trench systems of World War One shares a historical connection with the siege warfare practiced to a science in the eighteenth century. Even the city of Paris would be the location for the peace negotiations that redrew the political map of the world with far reaching consequences. The outcome of both wars dramatically shifted the balance of power for multiple empires. And finally, these two wars would both be overshadowed by conflicts that were in part born from ideologies and grievances that erupted in their immediate aftermath -- the American Revolution and World War II.

The following images, maps and questions are an attempt to find other contrasts and similarities between the Seven Years' War and the First World War. These are meant to serve as a reflective review on content learned earlier in the year as we built upon the skills of contextualization and synthesis.



## MATERIALS

\* Reflective Response and Essay prompt worksheet with images

## ACTIVITY

### **Part 1**

Reflective response to Image 1

Discussion of response to Image 1

Post Script Question (to be presented to the students after discussing the above response.)

*\* In fact, the Huron demanded that Champlain help them in their war against the Iroquois. What does this tell us about the balance of power in 1609 North America? How might this event represent a dramatic shift and change in North America? What changes after this event?*

### **Part 2**

Reflective response to Image 2

### **Part 3**

Reflective response comparing/contrasting Image 3 with Image 4

Reflective response comparing/contrasting Images A & B with Images C & D

Reflective response comparing/contrasting Image E with Image F

### **Part 4**

Reflective response comparing/contrasting Image 5 with Image 6

### **Part 5**

Reflective response to Images 7 and 8

### **Part 6**

Reflective response to Image 9 and excerpt

Reflective response to Image 10 and excerpt

### **Part 7**

Reflective response comparing Image 11 (Seven Years' War map) with Image 12 (WWI map)

### **Part 8**

Short Essays