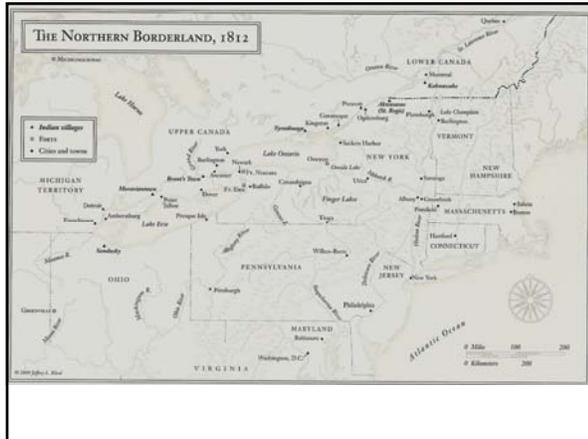


Where Would You Build Your Fort?





Importance of Waterways in North America

- Three hundred years ago this extensive water system, stretching from the Atlantic to Central Canada and the American Midwest, provided a natural transportation route through the rugged wilderness.
- By utilizing the Lakes and their numerous tributaries, the Native peoples and European explorers could cross much of the continent.
- Potages connect lakes with water systems and Plains.
 - These “carrying places” around obstacles to water transport—rapids, heights of land and, of course, Niagara Falls—were the control points for waterborne commerce.
- The early importance of the Fort Niagara site derived almost solely from the portage around Niagara Falls.

Why did the British want to ally themselves with the Iroquois?

The colonists coveted the Iroquois as allies because they occupied the most strategic position in northeastern North America along the waterways through the Appalachian Mountains between New York and French Canada to the north and between New York and the Great Lakes to the west. Given the impossibility of moving armies with cannon through dense woods and across mountains, British officers needed to control the waterways- at least to defend New York and at best to attack Canada. As raiding enemies, the Iroquois might devastate the colonial frontier, but as allies they could provide an invaluable screen against attacks by more distant Indians allied with the French. The Iroquois location "next to our portages and frontier settlements," Sir William Johnson explained, "qualifies them for acting the part of our best friends, or our most dangerous enemies."

Fort Detroit

- Originally called Fort Pontchartrain du Détroit
- Established by the French officer Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac in 1701
- The location of the former fort is now in the city of Detroit in the state of Michigan







What effects did the Port of Detroit have on Westward Expansion?

By 1751, the Port of Detroit had a French population of six hundred, and it was an important fur-trading center. When dredging created navigational channels between the Great Lakes and the Hudson River and the Erie Canal opened in the early 1800s, the Port of Detroit became an important passageway to the promising Northwest Territory.

Its central location made the Port of Detroit a perfect point for shipment of timber, wool, and field products from the north and west as well as manufactured goods from the east. With the discovery of ores and limestone in northern Michigan and supplies of coal in southern Michigan, the Port of Detroit became the logical point for trade and transportation. With increasing traffic came bankers, importers, storage companies, and shipbuilders, and laborers followed these employers.

Fort Erie

- Built in 1764
- Located in Canada directly across from Buffalo
- Served as a supply depot for ships in the Great Lakes





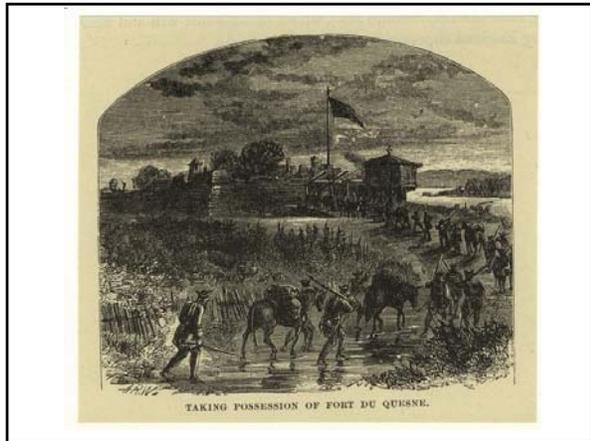
Why was control of Fort Erie so important for the British?

At the end of the Seven Years War (or French and Indian War) in 1763, all of New France was ceded to Great Britain. The British established control by occupying the French forts and constructing a line of communications along the Niagara River and Upper Great Lakes. Fort Erie was the first British fort to be constructed as part of this network. The original fort, built in 1764, was located on the river's edge below the present fort. For the next 50 years, Fort Erie served as a supply depot and a port for ships transporting merchandise, troops and passengers to the Upper Great Lakes.

**Fort Duquesne
Fort Pitt**

- Fort Duquesne was a established by the French in 1754, at the junction of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers in downtown Pittsburgh
- It was destroyed and replaced by Fort Pitt in 1758
- The site formerly occupied by Fort Duquesne is now Point State Park







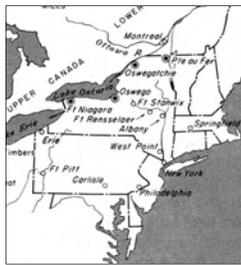


What was so strategically important about the location of Fort Pitt?

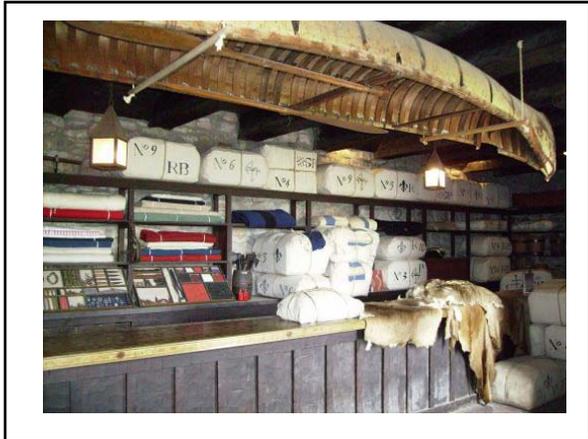
Built at a point where the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers come together to form the Ohio River, was long seen as important for controlling the Ohio Country, both for settlement and for trade. Englishman William Trent had established a highly successful trading post at the forks as early as the 1740s, to do business with a number of nearby American Indian villages. Both the French and the British were keen to gain advantage in the area. As the area was within the drainage basin of the Mississippi River, the French claimed it as theirs. Many of the charters of the British colonies on the east coast of North America granted land indefinitely to the west, setting the scene for conflict.

Fort Niagara

- Fortification originally built to protect the interests of New France in North America.
- It is located near Youngstown, New York, on the eastern bank of the Niagara River at its mouth, on Lake Ontario.







Why would Arthur Young say this?

The importance of this place is almost inconceivable. It is the key to the whole continent.
Arthur Young -1759



