

Chapter 5:

Becoming a British Colony

Over the years the New York Colony continued to grow. When the British took over in 1664, the population was around 9,000. The colony's population grew rapidly during the next century. In 1771 there were 168,000 residents. That number more than doubled over the next 20 years. In 1790 there were over 340,000 people living in New York.

At first few people settled on the land west and north of Albany. The settlers feared attacks from Native Americans and from the French to the north, in present-day Canada. The French and English were longtime enemies, and fighting often broke out in Europe and America. Between 1689 and 1763, the English and the French went to war four times in Colonial America. The fighting was mainly for control of land in North America and the valuable fur trade.

New York City: A Melting Pot of Cultures

The Dutch had encouraged people from a variety of countries and cultures to settle in New Netherland. This practice remained the same when the British took over. The promise of religious freedom drew Catholics, Jews, and Protestant groups, such as Baptists and French Huguenots, to New York. Immigrants arrived from Germany, France, Scotland, and Ireland. This mixture of ethnic and religious groups helped New York become the melting pot of diverse cultures that it still is today.



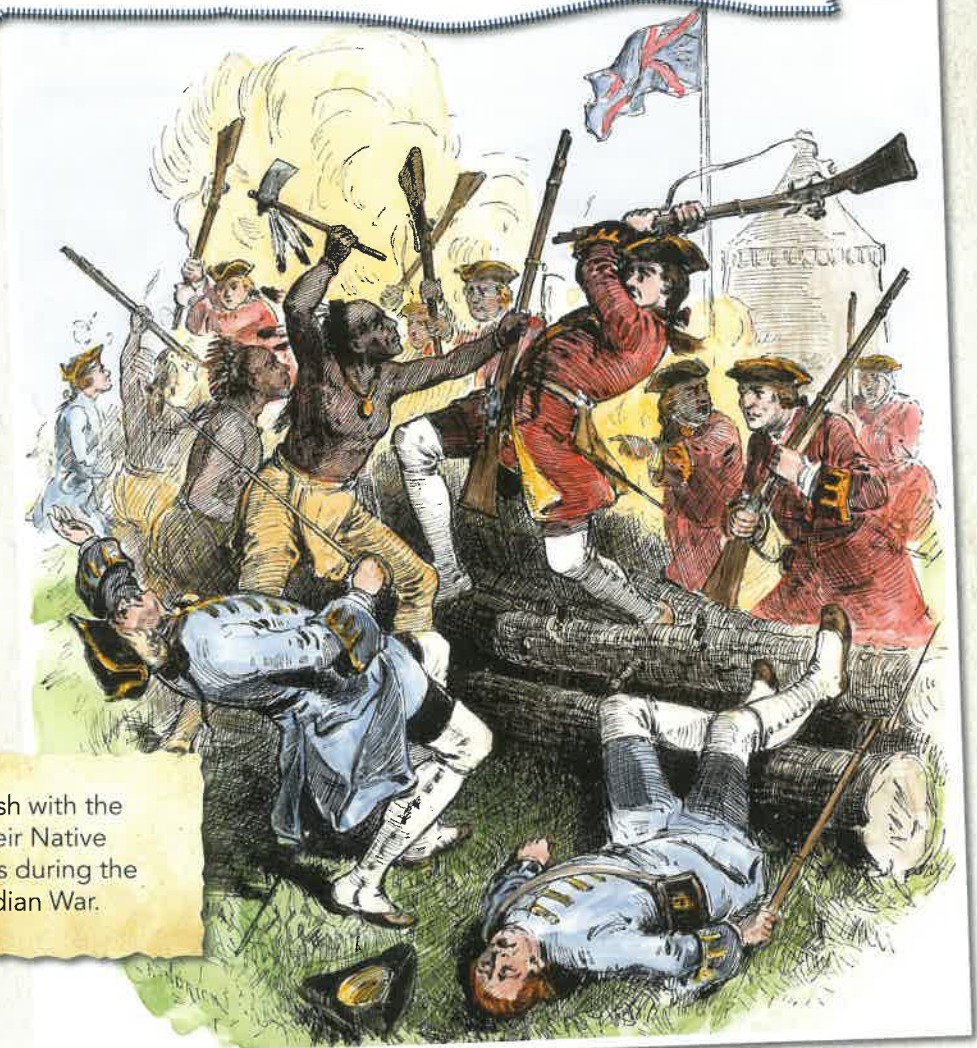
Conflicts Between France and England

King William's War 1689–1697

Queen Anne's War 1702–1713

King George's War 1744–1748

French and Indian War 1754–1763



The British clash with the French and their Native American allies during the French and Indian War.