

## Teaching with Primary Sources Lesson Outline

**Grade Level:** Middle School (6-8)

**Standard(s) or Objectives:** CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.2: Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.

### Library of Congress or Morris Special Collections Resources:



**Benjamin Franklin, "Join or Die," 1754**

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2002695523/>

### Topic Background:

The French and Indian War was the North American conflict in a larger imperial war between Great Britain and France known as the Seven Years' War. The French and Indian War began in 1754 and ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1763. The war provided Great Britain enormous territorial gains in North America, but disputes over subsequent frontier policy and paying the war's expenses led to colonial discontent, and ultimately to the American Revolution.

Excerpted from: <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1750-1775/french-indian-war>

### Source(s) Used:

The source used for this assessment is Benjamin Franklin's political cartoon "Join or Die," created in May, 1754. The image is a divided snake, with sections labeled as "S.C., N.C., V., M., R., N.J., N.Y., and N.E." Franklin was warning the British colonies that unless they united together, they would be defeated by the French and their Native American allies.

### Answer Key:

Question 1: B

Question 2: C

### Benjamin Franklin, "Join or Die," 1754



#### Questions:

- 1) What do the letters along the side of the divided snake stand for? (CCSS-RH6-8.4)
  - a. The letters represent American troops fighting in the French and Indian War.
  - b. The letters represent the American colonies during the French and Indian War.
  - c. The letters represent French colonies during the French and Indian War.
  - d. The letters represent Native American tribes who fought in the French and Indian War.
  
- 2) Which statement best reflects the central idea of the political cartoon? (CCSS-RH6-8.2)
  - a. The American Colonies must join together to fight the American Revolution.
  - b. The Southern and Northern colonies are split over the issue of slavery.
  - c. The American Colonies must join together to fight in the French and Indian War.
  - d. The Southern and Northern colonies will be divided among the French and British.