

First Nations Warfare and Diplomacy: The Great Peace of Montreal 1701

alliance

French and First Nations Alliances late 17th Century (1600's)

- France claimed a large territory in North America
- With a small population and military France relied on alliances with First Nations to control it
- First Nations made alliances with France to further their own interests and objectives
- First nations negotiated with France on an equal basis as nation to nation
- First nations imposed their ceremonies and practices of diplomacy on the French such as the practice of gift giving.

diplomacy

French Trade and Military Challenges

- Some First Nations allies of the French in the Pays D'en Haut region (Great Lakes) fought against each other
- France wanted to encourage peace to ensure a stable supply of furs from the Pays D'en Haut
- France wanted to encourage peace among their allies so that they could cooperate against their enemy the Iroquois Confederacy.
- The Iroquois Confederacy was trying to break the alliances of Pays D'en Haut First Nations with France
- The Iroquois wanted to divert the fur trade from the French to the British in the Thirteen Colonies

neutral

The Great peace of Montreal 1701

- To achieve their goals France called a diplomatic meeting in Montreal in 1701 with all of their allies and the Iroquois Confederacy
- France was able to secure a general peace agreement that included the Iroquois Confederacy
- The Iroquois agreed to participate because they were weakened by French attacks
- The Iroquois agreed that furs from the Pays D'en Haut First Nations would be traded to the French
- The Iroquois agreed to remain neutral in conflicts between France and Britain
- First Nations agreed that the governor of New France would mediate any conflicts between them

mediate

Summary