In 1756, on the eve of the Seven Years War, Britain had a national	debt of £74.6 million. At the end of the
war, British national debt had increased to £132.6 million. The	
debt was more than half of the British Government's annual budge	
Engaging in more costly wars with the per	oples of North America was not a path
that Britain could afford and so, in order to pacify the First Nations	
issued the Royal Proclamation of 1763.	
The Royal Proclamation was initially issued by King George III in 17	63 to officially claim British territory in
North America after Britain won the Seven Years War. In the Royal	Proclamation, ownership over North
America is issued to	
However, the Royal Proclamation explicitly states that Aboriginal t	itle has existed and continues to exist,
and that all land would be considered Aboriginal land until ceded by	oy
The Royal Proclamation set a foundation for the	of establishing treaties.
The Proclamation settlers from claiming la	and from the Aboriginal occupants,
unless it has been first bought by the Crown and then sold to the s	ettlers. The Royal Proclamation further
sets out that only the Crown can buy land from First Nations.	
However, the Royal Proclamation was designed and written by Brit	tish colonists without
input, and clearly establishes a monopoly	over Aboriginal lands by the British
Crown.	
Some argue that the Royal Proclamation is still valid in	, since no law has overruled
t.1 The Royal Proclamation is enshrined in Section 25 of the Const	itution Act; this section of the Charter of
Rights and Freedoms guarantees that nothing can terminate or din	ninish the Aboriginal rights outlined in
the Proclamation.	
This proclamation established a clear boundary line that settlers from	om the Thirteen Colonies could not
cross. It established a protected territory for the	people west of the Proclamation
Line.	
No one other than First Nations people or the	could possess land in the protected
territory. For the British Crown to gain possession, it had to be neg	otiated with the First Nations peoples.
Neither individuals nor companies could i	n the protected territory.
The provision was meant to avoid further conflicts with indigenous	s peoples by providing them with a say in
when and where European settlement could occur in the	·
The plan was that when it was deemed necessary, the Crown woul	d negotiate with First Nations people to
reach treaties that would transfer control of land from the First Na	tions to the British Crown who could
then sell it off to	
It was hoped that the combination of British rule in Quebec and th	e inability to migrate west, would see
British colonists in the Thirteen Colonies move north into	, helping to assimilate
the Canadiens into British North American society.	
To help facilitate this migration of Yankee	settlers, the province of Quebec was
established which was restricted to the St. Lawrence River Valley, a	a civil government was installed and
French laws that had governed the Canadiens for centuries were a	bolished, and, in their place, British law
took hold.	
In addition, anyone seeking to participate in the government had t	o take the, an
oath of allegiance to the Anglican Church. This ensured that Romai	
The residents of Quebec were also obliged to remain there, as it w	as necessary to obtain a
to travel west of the province's boundarie	es.

Name:

BCR2: The Royal Proclamation

James Murray was the military govern	nor of Quebec from the surrender of Montreal in 1760 to the signin
	h time he became the first of British North
Despite the provisions of the Royal Pr	oclamation, Murray refused to call an in
order to create an elected assembly, I	preferring the stability of the French traditions to the potential of a
Canadien revolt if the French Catholic	majority were to be ruled by an English Protestant minority.
This had the effect of adding the voice	e of disgruntled British subjects in Quebec, to those of the Thirteen
Colonies whose cries for more	were also being ignored.
As a result, Murray was recalled in 17	66 and replaced by, but he continued
Murray's practice of governance.	
What was expected to be a flood of Y	ankee immigrants into Quebec was more a trickle and as such it wa
more important to maintain the supp number of British	ort of the majority Canadiens than it was to appease a minority in the province.
	ment to pass the in 1774. It repealed the
	ch property and civil laws, while retaining British criminal laws.
It also, expanded the province's territ	ory to include the (part of the protected
First Nations territory established only	
It allowed for	_ to serve in the Province's government, reestablished the Tithe to
support the Catholic Church, and guar	
These provisions were a major conces	sion to Quebec's unique position within the British Empire. Similar
concessions were	elsewhere in the Empire.
	n Quebec such as the Church and the landed seigneurs, led to
discontent among the British inhabita	nts of Quebec who felt that they were being forced to live in a
colony rathe	r than a British one.
The denial of a democratically elected	assembly also caused discontent among the British residents of
Quebec. Unlike Nova Scotia which ele	cted its first assembly in 1758, or Prince Edward Island which elected
theirs in 1773, Quebec was ruled by the	ne Governor General and his
It also added to the growing discontent	ntment that had been growing in the Thirteen Colonies ever since t
end of the Seven Years War in 1763, v	vho declared that the Act was, yet another
enforced by Britain on its Yankee colo	nies.
Ever since the end of the Seven Years	War and the subsequent Pontiac's Resistance, Britain tried to reco
the money they spent (£58 million = \$	19,383,567,290.18) fighting these wars by raising
for the peop	le of the Thirteen Colonies. Additionally, the British government
believed that the residents of the Thir	teen Colonies should pay the cost of maintaining British soldiers in
the colonies.	
These tax increases outraged the	population who felt that the war was fought
more to accomplish British aims rathe	er than the aims of the Thirteen Colonies and as such they should no
have to bear the burden of its cost.	
When the Quebec Act was passed in 2	1774, British citizens in Quebec were denied the right of an
•	e Thirteen Colonies feared the same abuse of power by the British
parliament would be forced on them.	
They also felt	by the British Crown, who denied them access to the Ohio River
Valley, even though they had fought t	o defeat the French who controlled it during the Seven Years War.

Name:

BCR2: The Royal Proclamation

•	Cries of "no taxation without representation" became a call to arms that ultimately led to a Declaration of Independence issued by the Thirteen Colonies on
•	Protests in the 13 Colonies to increased taxes had begun as early as 1768. The most famous being the
	, over the increase in British taxes on tea to the colonies. This led to four punitive
	Acts being issued against the colony of Massachusetts by the British government, referred to as the
	Intolerable Acts by the colonists. The Quebec Act was seen as a fifth Intolerable Act.
•	The Thirteen Colonies made their displeasure with Britain further known in 1774 when they sent a petition
	of to the British government by the First Continental Congress, while 12 of the 13
	colonies agreed to boycott British trade until their petition had been addressed.
•	When the British government refused to address their concerns, fighting broke out on 19 April 1775 at the
	Battle of and again on 17 June 1775 at the Battle of Bunker Hill.
•	In order to try and avoid a war, the Second Continental Congress issued the
	Petition on 5 July 1775. King George III refused to read the petition and instead issued the Proclamation of
	Rebellion on 23 August 1775, labeling the colonists as traitors.
•	The American War had begun.
•	The Yankees hoped that the Canadiens of Quebec would support and join their cause. To this end they
	printed up a statement encouraging the Canadiens to overthrow the British in Quebec and posted it in
	both Quebec City and
•	The British hoped that the concessions made in the Quebec Act had been enough to appease the
	Canadiens and so gain their indifference, if not their
•	The Catholic Church of Quebec, who had had their position strengthened by the Quebec Act supported
	Carleton and encouraged their to support the British over the "rebellious
	Yankees."
•	On 13 November 1775 the Yankees captured Montreal and then attacked on 31
	December 1775. Despite losing the battle for Quebec City, the Yankees managed to hold Montreal until 15 June 1776.
•	During this time the Yankees invaders received little help from the local
	inhabitants of Quebec.
•	After seven years of fighting, the Britain was in and could not afford to continue
	the war. British negotiators were told to end the war at any price.
•	The official end of the American War for Independence came with the signing of the in 1783.
•	The result of the Treaty, was to give the Ohio River Valley to the new United States of America, while British North America would be limited to areas north of the
=(ormative Assessment:
	1. To which group was the Royal Proclamation most significant: British, Canadien, Yankee, First Nations?

Name:

BCR2: The Royal Proclamation

- Why?
- 2. In our textbook, the Yankees are referred to as rebels. Thinking back to the way Pontiac's Resistance was referenced, how does the use of such language shape our understanding of the events?
- 3. Use a graphic organizer to summarize the major causes and consequences of the Quebec Act of 1774. Include direct and indirect consequences.