

67 Fortress Towns on the St. Lawrence

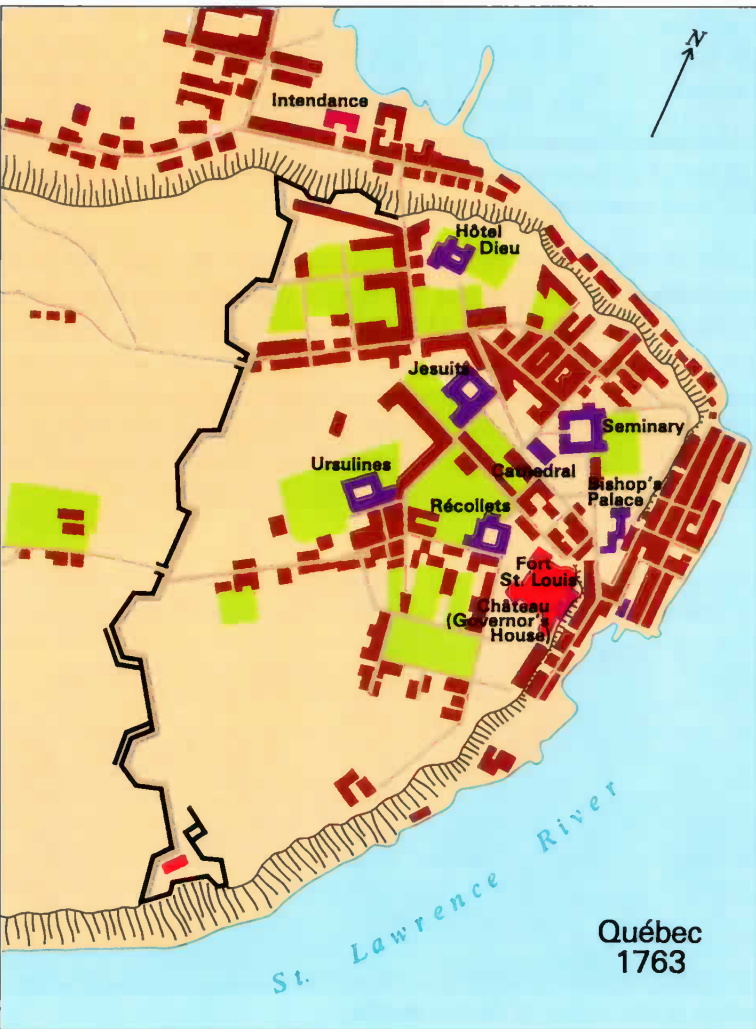
The founders of New France dreamed of an empire that would extend the rule of the French king to North America, convert the Indians to Christianity and return wealth to France. The town plans and the buildings of Québec and Montréal gave concrete form to these ideals and ambitions.

1. As members of the French aristocracy, the leaders of New France took pains to project an image of power and refined style. Thus, Québec and Montréal had impressive official homes for their governors, and in Québec, for the intendant and bishop of the colony as well.
2. Catholicism was very important in French life. In both towns, much space was devoted to the churches, seminaries and hospitals of the religious orders.

3. Above all, Montréal and Québec were centres in which profits could be gained for the merchants and nobles of France. Therefore, a lot of space was taken up by markets, warehouses and other commercial buildings.

4. Finally, both towns were strong fortresses from which the authority of the French king could be defended. Fortifications, powder magazines, gun batteries and other military buildings were a prominent part of the landscape.

In the case of Québec in particular, these characteristics recall another city in another time. Turn back to the earlier discussion of Constantinople on page 6, and see if you agree. Think about the similarities as well as the obvious differences between the two cities.



Acadie is the French name for the area we now know as Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. French settlement began in 1605 at Port Royal, but was abandoned in 1607. However, by 1640 a small farming settlement had developed there.

Acadia (*Acadie*) attracted settlers for several reasons. It had a mild climate, fertile land and a wealth of timber and other natural resources. In addition, it was located close to the Grand Bank fishing grounds and had excellent harbours.

The illustration shows how Acadian farmers cultivated small coastal salt-marshes and tidal estuaries. They used skills developed in France. Note how the settlements were small and scattered. Few had more than six to ten houses. How did these farmers prevent the high tides of the Bay of Fundy from flooding their fields? Why was the settlement located well back from the river? Why was the area of cultivated land so small?

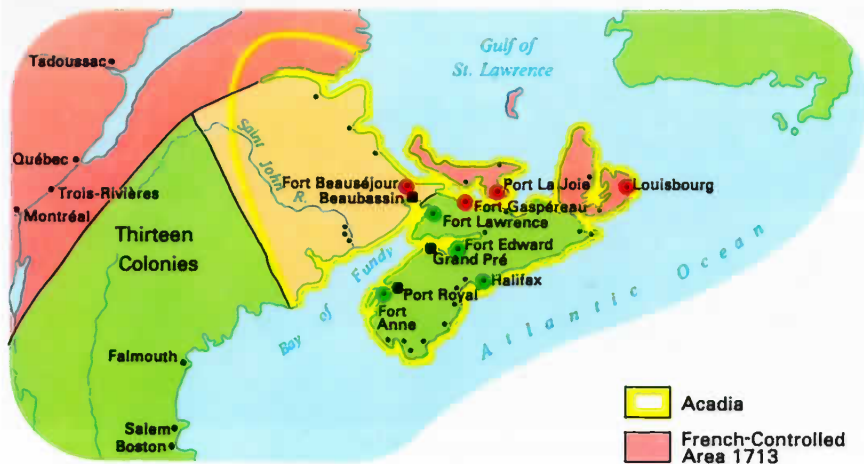
The Acadians became an independent people caught in the conflict between France and Britain. The maps below show how Acadia was divided between France and Britain by the Treaty of Utrecht (1713). This marked the end of the war in Europe. The Acadians were asked to swear loyalty to the British Crown. Most refused, but promised to remain neutral if war broke out again.



Acadian Tidal Marshland Settlement

In 1713 the French began construction of the fortress at Louisbourg, hoping to regain Acadia. The British built their own fortresses and settlements because they did not trust the Acadians. When the Acadians again refused to take an oath of loyalty in 1755, six thousand were forced out of their homes and off their land. In the confusion many families became separated as the Acadians were dispersed along the east coast of North America. Acadia was now firmly in the hands of the British.

Acadia: A People Caught between Two Powers

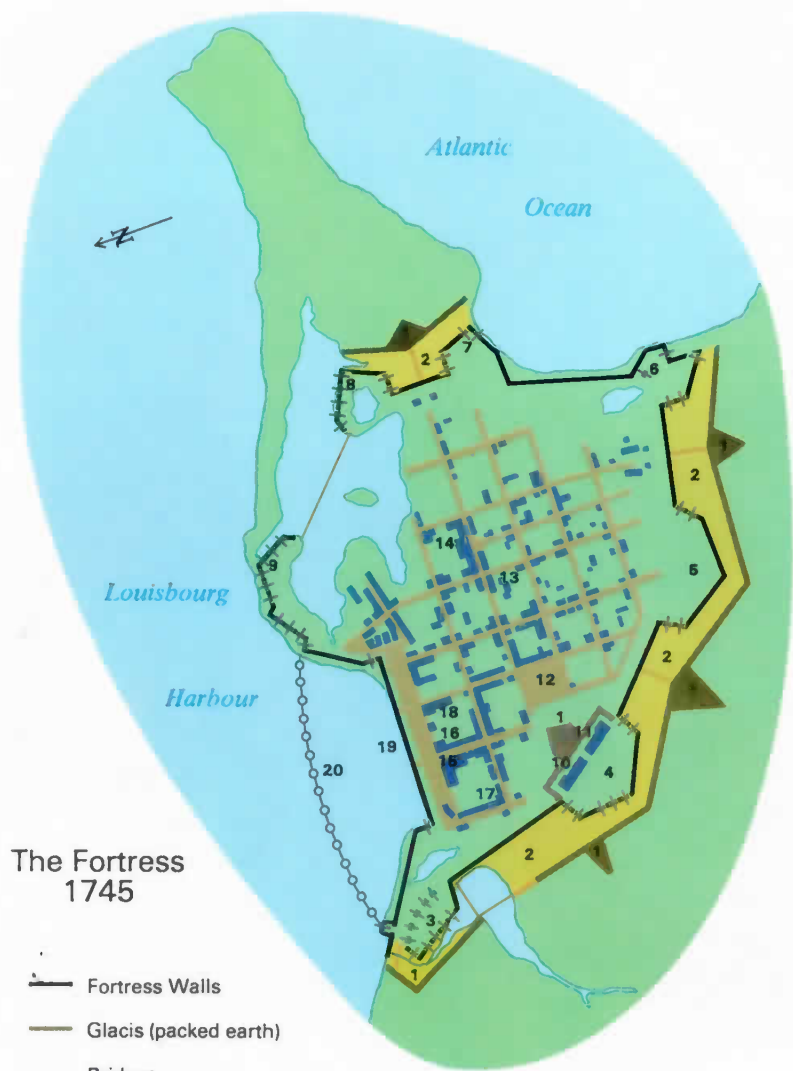


Routes of Acadian Deportation 1755

- Major Areas of Acadian Settlement
- Minor Acadian Settlements
- French Forts in Acadia
- British Forts in Acadia
- British-Controlled Area 1713
- Area Claimed by British & French



71 The French Fortress of Louisbourg



The Fortress
1745

- Fortress Walls
- Glacis (packed earth)
- Bridges
- Cannon Emplacements

0 100 200 300
metres

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Place of Arms (Ramparts) | 11. Governor's Apartments & Chapel |
| 2. Ditch | 12. Parade Ground |
| 3. Dauphin Bastion, Spur Battery | 13. Nunnery |
| 4. King's Bastion (Citadel) | 14. Hospital |
| 5. Queen's Bastion | 15. King's Warehouse |
| 6. Princess' Bastion | 16. Hôtel de la Marine |
| 7. Brouillan Bastion | 17. Garrison Bakery |
| 8. Maurepas Bastion | 18. Financial Commissioner |
| 9. Battery la Grave | 19. Wharves |
| 10. Barracks | 20. Boom |



The French Fortress of Louisbourg

Established in 1719, Louisbourg was considered the mightiest stronghold in North America and the third busiest seaport after Boston and Philadelphia. French vessels were able to guard the sea routes of New France in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and to threaten the New England coast. Built at great expense, Louisbourg was an investment to protect the vast resources of the fur trade and the fishing grounds of French North America.

Find the location of Louisbourg on the map on page 68. Study the map and the photograph of the modern reconstruction of Louisbourg shown on this page.

Examine the size of the fortifications and public buildings. Why were the walls so thick? Why was a boom needed to preserve the French ships?

Suggest some reasons why Louisbourg was so expensive to build.

Identify the parts of the settlement that have not been rebuilt. What are some possible reasons why this modern reconstruction is only partly finished?

Contrast Louisbourg with Québec on page 67. Which city should have been easier to defend?