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Original Document
Washington's Map of the Ohio, 1754

Directions: Read the Background below; then refer to the map and text to answer the questions.

Background: In November 1753 Virginia Lieutenant Governor Robert Dinwiddie sent Major George Washington to the upper Ohio Valley to warn the French that their Forts in the upper Valley were on British territory. By January 1754 Washington returned with a report that the French were well established and prepared to expand their presence. His map and journal convinced Dinwiddie to send soldiers under Major Washington back in the spring with soldiers to enforce the British claim to the Ohio valley.



Detail of map drawn by George Washington, 1753-1754

Source: Washington, George. *The Journal of Major George Washington*. Williamsburg: William Hunter, 1754.

1. What was the value of Washington's journey and map to the Virginians and the British?
2. Explain why each group (Indians, Virginians, Pennsylvanians, and French) wanted to control of the forks of the Ohio.

Take It Further

Compare Washington's map with a map of the same area today. How many states occupy the territory of Washington's map? What would you find at the forks of the Ohio today?