

**Student Resource Page 2-2**  
**Original Document and Chart**  
**Anatomy of a “Massacre”**

**Directions:** Read sections A, B, and C below and then answer the questions.

**Background:** British colonists were enraged by the “Massacre at Fort William Henry” in 1757. It became a rallying call for revenge against both the French and Indians.

**A. A Misunderstanding**

The terms [by which the British could leave Fort William Henry] so honorable by European ... [standards] were not only alien to...Montcalm’s Indian allies, but had been negotiated...without consulting them....When it became clear that the man whom they called “Father” [Montcalm] intended to...deprive them of the reward they had earned [captive, plunder, and trophies], most of the warriors decided...to take what they had come for, and then to leave. And that was exactly what they did.

**B. “Horrid Scene of Blood and Slaughter”**

“...the savages still carrying away Officers, privates, women and children, some of which later they kill’d & scalpt in the road. This horrid scene of blood and slaughter obliged our officers to apply to the French Guard for protection. Which the[y] refus’d...” *Colonel Joseph Frye (leader of the Massachusetts Militia)*

**C. Outcomes for the men, women, and children of the British Garrison at Fort William Henry**

<b>Killed</b>	<b>Taken Captive</b>	<b>Took Refuge with the French</b>
185	300–500* * of whom all but 200 were ransomed by the French	300–500

Sources: A and C: Anderson, Fred. *The Crucible of War: The Seven Years’ War and the Fate of Empire in British North America, 1754-1766*. New York: Vintage Books, 2000, p. 196. B: Dodge, Edward J. *Relief is Greatly Wanted: The Battle of Fort William Henry*. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 1998.

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1. How did Montcalm’s failure to consult with his Indian allies or to understand their expectations at the battle of Fort William Henry affect the future conduct of the war?
  2. How did the “massacre” at Fort William Henry affect the attitudes of British colonials toward Indians? toward Montcalm and the French?

3. Item C, the Outcomes chart, shows that the French helped ransom British captives from Fort William Henry. Do you think the British rage against the “massacre” acknowledged French assistance? Why or why not? What were the political consequences of the “massacre” for the French, the British, and the Indians?