Resource Page 2-3
Historical Opinion
Two Views of Captive-Taking By Indians

Directions: Read the background and "A," and "B" sections below and then answer the questions.

Background: During the French and Indian War, captive-taking (of civilians and soldiers) by Indians was used to build up population, weaken enemies, and gain income through ransoms. "Over 1600 people were taken captive from New England during the French and Indian wars; some died in captivity, some were sold to the French, some were adopted into Indian communities." White settlers viewed captive-taking as evidence of savagery and reacted with fury.

 [Quote source: Colin G. Calloway. *North Country Captives.* Hanover: University Press of New England, 1992, page ix.]

A. CAPTIVE-TAKING WAS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE
The French and Indian War's violence and brutality undermined, and ultimately destroyed, native peoples' ability to resist the expansion of Anglo-American settlement. The war's violence and brutality, moreover, encouraged whites—particularly those on the frontier—to hate Indians with undiscriminating fury.

B. CAPTIVE-TAKING WAS NECESSARY FOR INDIAN SURVIVIAL
"As much as half the population of any given [Indian] village or band died within days or weeks of an epidemic's appearance…. The only way to maintain population levels in the face of such devastation was for the survivors to undertake raiding expeditions...to take women and children from enemy groups as captives. They...could be adopted into the raiders' families as replacements for lost members, or...enslaved as substitutes for missing workers."

[Source: Anderson, Fred. *The War That Made America*, Viking, 2005., pp. viii and 5.]

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1. Give examples of the French and Indian War's brutality (including captive-taking) that might have led whites to "hate Indians with undiscriminating fury." Use examples from the film, *The War That Made America,* and from your reading.

2. From an Indian point of view, what would be some of the pros and cons of bringing whites into Indian families as adoptees?