

**Student Resource Page 3-4**  
***Original Document***  
**Letter from General Forbes**

**Directions:** Read the letter below and then answer the questions. Use a dictionary for unfamiliar words, bearing in mind that some words were spelled differently in the 18th century.

**General Forbes to Pitt**  
the 6<sup>th</sup> September, 1758

*Sir* In my last letter I had the honour to acquaint you, of my proceedings in the new road across the Alleganey Mountains....

I hinted to you ...[formerly] of my endeavouring to bring about a Treaty betwixt the Delaware Indians &c<sup>a</sup>, neighbours to those Provinces... as the Indians demands were but few, and to me seeming not unreasonable, I thought the reclaiming of those Tribes would be of very great Service to the Publick in weakening of the French Interest by setting a good example to other Western Tribes of Indians, who it is said have all the Inclination to be well with us, wanting only an Opportunity, and an Assurance of protection to declare themselves for us, or at least to remain neutralls. This is almost brought to a Crisis, their Chief Men being hourly expected at East-town upon the Delaware, where the Govern<sup>r</sup> of Pennsylvania and Jersey are to meet them and settle Preliminaries; I wish it could have been done sooner, and that they could have had time to remove, because now my scene of offensive Operations must immediately be put in Execution, when it will be hard for me to distinguish betwixt our friendly disposed Indians, and our real Enemies.

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Source: Forbes, General John in: Kimball, *Correspondence of William Pitt*, pp. 338-343.  
[http://www.gbl.indiana.edu/archives/miamis11/M53-58\\_76a.html](http://www.gbl.indiana.edu/archives/miamis11/M53-58_76a.html)

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1. What reason does Forbes give for “endeavoring to bring about a treaty” with Indians?
2. Why is Forbes telling Pitt about his activities in western Pennsylvania?
3. What problems does he anticipate from the timing of the “East-town” meeting?

***Take It Further***

The road General John Forbes constructed from Philadelphia to Fort Duquesne is today the route of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Interested students can use a Pennsylvania road map and a topographic map of Pennsylvania to trace that route and answer the following questions: How far is it from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh? What kind of topographical features may have helped or hindered travel on the route—in 1758? today?