Pontiac’s War

In the spring of 1763, the Delaware, Huron, Miami, Ottawa, and Shawnee tribes all used force to resist the British and the American colonists. The Ottawa chief Pontiac was one of the leaders of this resistance force. The Indians attacked British forts on the frontier, and within a month had captured or destroyed seven forts. Pontiac himself led the attack on Fort Detroit, which was the center for British defense and trade in the Great Lakes area. The siege of Detroit lasted several months, during which time Indians also attacked many colonial settlements. The Indians following Pontiac grew tired of the siege of the fort and returned to their villages. As more Indians left, Pontiac was forced to give up the attack. In the end, 450 British soldiers were killed, 2,000 American colonists were killed and another 2,000 colonists driven off their land. Total Indian losses are unknown.