French Exiles from Canada, 1755

Directions: Read the Background section below and use the chart to answer the questions.

Background: Acadians are people from the present day Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. Colonel John Winslow through an interpreter announced to a group of Acadians at Grand Pre, "…His Majesty's instructions and commands, which are that your lands and tenements and cattle and live-stock of all kinds are forfeited to the Crown, with all your other effects, except money and household goods, and that you yourselves are to be removed from this province." Records indicate that over 12,000 Acadians were exiled to England, France and British colonies and an unknown number of thousands died. The figures below are estimates of the numbers sent to colonies that later became part of the United States of America. The Catholic exiles from Acadia lost not only their possessions and suffered the mental anguish of separation from loved ones, but in some instances, they also endured slavery or indentured servitude, disease, and poverty.

British Colony Deported to		Number of Exiled Acadians
CONNECTICUT		**700**
GEORGIA		**400**
MARYLAND		**1000**
MASSACHUSETTS		**2000**
NEW YORK		**250**
PENNSYLVANIA		**500**
SOUTH CAROLINA		**500**
VIRGINIA		**1100**

Source: Plank, Geoffrey. *An Unsettled Conquest: The British Campaign Against the Peoples of Acadia. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2001.*

Guiding Questions:

1. Why do you think the British forced the French Acadians to leave Canada? How do you think the Acadians reacted to their military defeat and forced migration?
2. What role did distance, transportation options, religion, and language play in determining how many exiles a colony received?
3. How do you think the Acadians reacted to their military defeat and forced migration?
4. Examine the painting Deportation Grand-Pré by a French artist in 1898 and the 1755 depiction of the eviction by John Davies titled A View of the Plundering and Burning of the City of Grimross. What do you think is important to each artist? Use specifics from the paintings in your answer.

French Exiles from Canada, 1755

Commands: orders

Tenements: homes, farms

Forfeited: given to

Exiled: forced from home, country

Endured: to carry on despite hardships

indentured servitude: to work for 3-7 years in exchange for transportation, food, and clothing

poverty: unable to pay for food, clothing, and shelter

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Guiding Questions:

1. What are the British taking from the French Acadians?
2. How do you think the Acadians reacted to their forced move and new lives in the British colonies?
3. Analyze: why did the British spread out the Acadians among many colonies? Why did they pay the expense of sending far south?