

Chapter 11 Social Studies - Study guide

Who tended to be loyalists, and why would they want to stay loyal?

Generally, Loyalists were people who liked the British government and liked how their lives were going:

- rich landowners (afraid of losing their property)
- governors (the king gave them their job)
- religious leaders in the Church of England (strong belief that the king got his power from God)
- anyone who liked being part of one of the most powerful nations on the planet
- anyone who thought it was reasonable for Parliament to tax the colonists
- People who liked having British soldiers around to keep order, preventing or stopping Patriot rebels.

Who tended to be Patriots, and why would they want to be independent of Great Britain?

Generally, Patriots were people who didn't like how their lives were going or how they were being treated.

- Merchants in and around Boston (they were losing money as a result of Parliament's taxes)
- Lawyers and others who thought Parliament's laws were unfair
- Some farmers (especially ones who wanted fewer rules and lower taxes)
- Craftsmen, such as printers, shipbuilders, and tailors (clothes makers) who thought the economy would be better without Great Britain's government.
- Anyone who didn't like having soldiers living in and around their homes.

What fraction of the colonists were Patriot? Loyalist? Neutral?

- The short answer is that nobody knows for sure. Less than half were Patriot, less than half were Loyalist, and a large fraction were undecided.

Why did it matter how many were Patriot or Loyalist?

- The side with the larger fraction often controlled the area. (You might stay quiet too if you were the only Patriot in a whole town of Loyalists!) Get the neutral people to join your side, and you'll have the advantage.

Who was Patrick Henry, and what major difference did he make?

- Patrick Henry was a skilled, passionate speaker who convinced many people to become Patriots. His "Give me liberty, or give me death!" speech is one of the most famous in American history. That line became a rallying cry for Patriots and helped unite the colonies against Great Britain.

Vocabulary (Also found on a Quizlet linked to the Revolutionary War page on the class Weebly)

- **independence**: separation from, or freedom from control, by another country or government
- **Patriot**: a person in the American colonies who wanted the colonies to become independent from Great Britain
- **Loyalist**: a person in the American colonies who opposed independence and wanted the colonies to remain under the control of the king and Great Britain
- **neutral**: not taking sides. In the American colonies, many people remained this way and did not support either side (Loyalist or Patriot) in the fight for independence from Great Britain.
- **traitor**: a person guilty of betraying or acting against his or her own country
- **tyrant**: a ruler who uses his or her power harshly
- **treason**: the crime of acting to overthrow one's ruler or betray one's country
- **resolution**: a statement that expresses the wishes or decisions of a group

Which person goes with each statement? (Have someone quiz you.)

Thomas Hutchinson, Lord Dunmore, Jonathan Boucher, Samuel Adams, Mercy Otis Warren, Ben Franklin

Occupations

- I was a Governor of Massachusetts. (T.H.)
- I was a priest in the Church of England. (J.B.)
- I was a Governor of Virginia. (L.D.)
- I was a writer, printer, inventor, scientist, statesman, diplomat, and colonial representative to the British government. (B.F.)
- I was a writer and poet. (M.O.W.)
- I was a politician. (S.A.)

Actions Taken

- I enforced British laws like the Stamp Act. (T.H.)
- I preached that disobeying the king was like disobeying God. (J.B.)
- I attacked Patriots' homes and plantations along the Elizabeth River in Virginia. (L.D.)
- I tried to persuade Great Britain to stop making laws that the colonists thought were unfair. (B.F.)
- I wrote plays and poems supporting independence. (M.O.W.)
- I made speeches and wrote newspaper articles. I also helped organize the Sons of Liberty and led the Boston Tea Party to protest unfair British laws. (S.A.)

Arguments For/Against Independence

- I believed the British king knows that is best for colonists because he has experience and wisdom. Colonists living overseas should not expect to have the same freedoms that people in Great Britain have. (T.H.)
- I believed a war for independence would hurt people much more than living with a few bad laws would. The common people are not capable of ruling. British laws come from God and make life safer and easier for colonists. (J.B.)
- I believed colonists have a duty to obey British laws and not become traitors. Fighting for independence would hurt the economy and make colonists poor. Great Britain started the colonies and still protects them so the colonists have a duty to obey British laws. (L.D.)
- I believed the colonists have the ability to govern themselves. Great Britain will keep making unfair laws. The colonists can no longer trust the British government. (B.F.)
- I believed Great Britain's laws and taxes are unfair. Colonial families had a hard time earning money and British goods are expensive. The colonies would be better off with their own government. (M.O.W.)
- I believed the colonists should be able to elect their own governors and to have the power to change unfair laws. Colonists should not have to pay high taxes on British goods. (S.A.)