Who Won Freedom?

Compare wartime choices with life after independence

SS24.US1.1e "Compare and contrast the contributions of different groups in colonial America to the War for Independence and the effects of the war on members of these groups, including free and enslaved Black Americans, Loyalists, Native Americans..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a wartime contribution and circle a postwar effect for each group: free Black Americans, enslaved Black Americans, Loyalists, Native Americans, and women. Use your marks to compare what groups did with what changed for them.

The War Did Not End the Same Way for Everyone

1. During the Revolutionary War, Black Americans did not fight for a single side or a single goal. Free and enslaved Black men served Patriot forces, while others joined British forces. In 1775, Virginia's royal governor offered freedom to enslaved people owned by rebels who joined the British. After the war, free Black veterans still faced discrimination. Some enslaved veterans gained freedom, but many Black Americans remained enslaved. British evacuation carried some Black Loyalists to Nova Scotia, where land and supplies were often scarce.

2. Loyalists supported the king by joining British units, supplying troops, or sharing information. After the war, some lost property and left for British territories, while others stayed. Native nations also made different choices: some supported Britain to resist settler expansion, while others supported the Patriots or tried to remain neutral. These choices divided some Native communities. Despite their wartime contributions, Native nations had no voice in the peace treaty. Britain gave up its claims to vast lands without Native consent, increasing pressure on Native homelands.

3. Women also shaped the war, though they could not enlist as soldiers on the same terms as men. Some managed farms and businesses, raised funds, carried supplies, or traveled with armies to cook and nurse. A few served as messengers or spies for either side. Women in Loyalist families could lose their homes through exile or property confiscation. Independence did not give women the vote, and laws still limited many women's property rights. Across these groups, wartime contributions did not guarantee equal rights or safety afterward.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did life after the war differ for free and enslaved Black Americans?

2. How were Loyalists' and Native nations' wartime choices alike, and how were their postwar losses different?

3. Compare how women and Black Americans contributed to the war and name one limit each faced afterward.

4. Why did some enslaved Black people and some Native nations support Britain, and what did each face after the war?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 75 to 95 word museum label comparing two groups from the passage. Include one similarity and one difference in their wartime contributions, one similarity and one difference in their postwar experiences, and a claim about what independence meant for them.

ANSWER KEY

Who Won Freedom?

GRADE 10 · SS24.US1.1e

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a wartime contribution and circle a postwar effect for each group: free Black Americans, enslaved Black Americans, Loyalists, Native Americans, and women. Use your marks to compare what groups did with what changed for them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did life after the war differ for free and enslaved Black Americans?	**Free Black veterans still faced discrimination. Some enslaved veterans gained freedom, but many Black Americans remained enslaved.**
2	How were Loyalists' and Native nations' wartime choices alike, and how were their postwar losses different?	**Members of both groups supported Britain, though Native nations made different choices. Some Loyalists lost property or left their homes; Native nations faced growing pressure on their homelands after a treaty made without their consent.**
3	Compare how women and Black Americans contributed to the war and name one limit each faced afterward.	**Black men served in Patriot or British forces; women supplied armies, nursed, or served as messengers and spies. Free Black veterans faced discrimination, and women did not gain the vote.**
4	Why did some enslaved Black people and some Native nations support Britain, and what did each face after the war?	**Some enslaved Black people sought freedom, while some Native nations hoped to resist settler expansion. Some enslaved people gained freedom, but many remained enslaved; Native nations faced increased pressure on their lands.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Women and Native nations both influenced the war, and members of each group aided opposing sides. Women raised funds, delivered supplies, or gathered information; Native nations chose military alliances or tried to stay neutral. Afterward, neither group gained equal power in the new nation. Women still lacked the vote, while Native nations faced greater pressure on their homelands after a peace treaty made without their consent. Independence did not secure equal rights for either group, but it threatened Native control of land more directly.

Accept comparisons supported by the passage, including differences within a group. Do not treat any group as having made a single wartime choice or experienced a single postwar outcome.