

Revolutionary Voices

Compare colonial ideas about the American Revolution.

SS.5.CG.2.1 "Discuss the political ideas of Patriots, Loyalists, and other colonists about the American Revolution."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline sentences that tell what a group believed, wanted, or supported. Write P, L, or O beside each underlined sentence to show whether it describes Patriots, Loyalists, or other colonists, so you can compare their ideas.

Different Views of Revolution

- ① In the 1770s, many Patriots believed Great Britain had treated the colonies unfairly. Parliament taxed colonists, yet colonists did not elect members of Parliament. Patriots argued that government should protect people's natural rights, including life, liberty, and property. They wanted colonial assemblies to make local decisions. Some Patriots first hoped Britain would change its policies, but later supported independence.
- ② Loyalists saw the conflict differently. They believed the colonies should remain part of the British Empire and that Parliament had legal authority over them. Some feared that independence would bring war, lost trade, or disorder. Others had jobs or family ties connected to Britain. Loyalists did not all share one reason, but they generally supported the king and opposed separation.
- ③ Other colonists chose neither side, or changed their views as events unfolded. Some wished to stay neutral because the war threatened their homes and families. Quakers often opposed fighting because of religious beliefs. Enslaved people sought freedom, and some joined the side they thought might offer it. Free Black colonists and women also supported different sides, even though most could not vote.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What unfair treatment did Patriots point to, and what did they believe government should protect?

2 What was the Loyalist position on the colonies and the British Empire? Give one reason some Loyalists held this position.

3 How did Patriots and Loyalists disagree about who should make decisions for the colonies?

4 Choose two groups of other colonists from the passage. What political idea or goal did each group have?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence statement from the point of view of a colonist in 1775. Choose Patriot, Loyalist, or neutral, state the position, and give two reasons based on ideas in the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline sentences that tell what a group believed, wanted, or supported. Write P, L, or O beside each underlined sentence to show whether it describes Patriots, Loyalists, or other colonists, so you can compare their ideas. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What unfair treatment did Patriots point to, and what did they believe government should protect?	Patriots said Parliament taxed colonists even though colonists did not elect members of Parliament. They believed government should protect natural rights, including life, liberty, and property.
2	What was the Loyalist position on the colonies and the British Empire? Give one reason some Loyalists held this position.	Loyalists wanted the colonies to remain part of the British Empire. Reasons included believing Parliament had legal authority, fearing war or lost trade, or having jobs or family ties to Britain.
3	How did Patriots and Loyalists disagree about who should make decisions for the colonies?	Patriots wanted colonial assemblies to make local decisions and later supported independence. Loyalists believed Parliament had authority over the colonies and wanted them to remain in the Empire.
4	Choose two groups of other colonists from the passage. What political idea or goal did each group have?	Answers may include: neutral colonists wanted to avoid a war that threatened homes and families; Quakers opposed fighting because of religious beliefs; enslaved people sought freedom; Free Black colonists and women supported different sides.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I am a Loyalist, so I want the colonies to remain in the British Empire. I believe Parliament has legal authority over the colonies. I also fear that independence could bring war and lost trade.

Accept a historically accurate Patriot, Loyalist, or neutral statement that clearly states a position and gives two passage-based reasons. Students may use different groups or details from the passage as evidence.