

Revolutionary Voices

Compare colonial views about power, rights, and resistance.

SS.8.CG.1.1 "Compare the views of Patriots, Loyalists, and other colonists on limits of government authority, unalienable rights, and resistance to tyranny."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the words that name a group, then underline one claim about authority, rights, or resistance for Patriots, Loyalists, and other colonists. Write A for authority, R for rights, or T for tyranny and resistance beside each underline.

Who Should Hold Power?

- ① In the 1760s and 1770s, many Patriots argued that British officials had exceeded rightful authority. Parliament passed taxes on colonists, although colonists did not elect members to represent them. Patriots said government exists to protect natural, or unalienable, rights such as life, liberty, and property. They protested through petitions, boycotts, and public meetings. After British troops fired on civilians in Boston and Britain punished Massachusetts after the Tea Party, some Patriots concluded that resistance was necessary to prevent tyranny, rule by power without respect for rights.
- ② Many Loyalists believed that the British constitution already limited the king through Parliament and laws. Because colonists were British subjects, Loyalists often said Parliament could make laws and impose taxes across the empire, even without colonial representatives voting in London. They feared that rebellion would replace lawful government with mob rule, violence, and loss of property. Loyalists usually favored petitions, legal appeals, and obedience while seeking change, rather than armed resistance. They viewed courts, trade, and imperial protection as safeguards for their rights.
- ③ Other colonists did not fit neatly into either camp. Some neighbors tried to remain neutral because they feared violence or needed to protect their farms and businesses. Enslaved people saw a sharp contradiction between talk of liberty and the reality of slavery. Some sought freedom by joining the British after royal officials offered liberty to people escaping rebel enslavers. Many Native nations judged both sides by whether they threatened Native lands, then made alliances based on survival and sovereignty.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 According to Patriots, what was government supposed to protect, and what made Parliament's taxes unfair?

2 How did Patriots and Loyalists differ on Parliament's authority over the colonies?

3 Compare the actions Patriots and Loyalists favored when they disagreed with British policy.

4 What contradiction did some enslaved people see, and what did many Native nations consider when choosing a side?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine it is 1775. A new British law closes a colonial harbor and requires local communities to provide quarters for soldiers. Write six sentences comparing how a Patriot, a Loyalist, and a neutral farmer might respond. State each person's view of government authority or rights and whether the person supports resistance.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the words that name a group, then underline one claim about authority, rights, or resistance for Patriots, Loyalists, and other colonists. Write A for authority, R for rights, or T for tyranny and resistance beside each underline. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	According to Patriots, what was government supposed to protect, and what made Parliament's taxes unfair?	Government was supposed to protect natural, or unalienable, rights. Patriots said the taxes were unfair because colonists did not elect representatives to Parliament.
2	How did Patriots and Loyalists differ on Parliament's authority over the colonies?	Patriots believed British officials and Parliament had exceeded rightful authority. Loyalists believed Parliament could make laws and impose taxes across the empire because colonists were British subjects.
3	Compare the actions Patriots and Loyalists favored when they disagreed with British policy.	Patriots used petitions, boycotts, and public meetings, and some came to support resistance. Loyalists favored petitions, legal appeals, and obedience while seeking change, rather than armed resistance.
4	What contradiction did some enslaved people see, and what did many Native nations consider when choosing a side?	Some enslaved people saw a contradiction between talk of liberty and slavery. Many Native nations considered whether either side threatened Native lands and chose alliances based on survival and sovereignty.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A Patriot says Parliament cannot close a harbor because colonists do not elect its members. She argues that the new law threatens liberty and property. She supports a boycott and organized resistance to stop tyranny. A Loyalist says Parliament may regulate the empire and that angry protests could destroy order. He wants colonists to petition officials and obey the law while seeking a change. A neutral farmer wants safety and fair treatment but avoids both the boycott and violent resistance.

Accept equivalent comparisons that accurately connect each group's view to authority, rights, or resistance. For the open response, accept varied positions if the Patriot, Loyalist, and neutral farmer are clearly distinguished and all six sentences address the scenario.