Why Stay Loyal?

Compare the interests behind Loyalist choices.

8.C.2.2.B "Compare political, economic, and family interests which influenced Loyalists views."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, write P beside a political interest, E beside an economic interest, and F beside a family interest that could lead someone to support Britain.

Three Neighbors, Three Choices

1 In 1775, Britain's thirteen colonies were divided over independence. People who remained loyal to the king were called Loyalists. Consider Samuel, an imagined court clerk. He believed British courts and laws kept disputes from turning violent. When Patriots demanded independence, Samuel feared that replacing the government during a war would bring disorder. He knew that supporting the king might cost him his position if Patriots took control. To Samuel, keeping a familiar system of government mattered more than the chance to form a new one.

2 Mara, a merchant, faced a different problem. Her shop sold cloth shipped through British trade networks. Patriot boycotts of British goods and fighting at sea could interrupt deliveries, leaving her with empty shelves and bills to pay. She thought continued ties to Britain offered her business the best chance to recover. Yet her choice was not risk free: some neighbors might refuse to buy from a known Loyalist. Unlike Samuel, Mara focused less on who wrote the laws than on whether she could keep goods coming and earn a living.

3 Leah's decision centered on family. Her father served in a British army supply office, while her brother supported independence. If she joined the Patriots, she feared losing daily contact with her father; if she stayed loyal to the king, she might drive her brother away. Leah chose to support Britain because she hoped to remain near her father, not because she traded cloth or trusted British courts. All three faced risks, but government, income, and family ties pulled each toward the Loyalist side in different ways.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What did Samuel and Mara each hope to protect by supporting Britain?

2. How did the economic risks Mara faced differ from the political risk Samuel faced?

3. How did Leah's main reason for loyalty differ from Mara's?

4. Both Samuel and Leah risked losing something important because of their choices. Compare what each could lose.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a fourth colonist who considers remaining loyal to Britain. In four or five sentences, explain how two different interests, political, economic, or family, could lead this person toward loyalty, then compare which interest is stronger and why.

ANSWER KEY

Why Stay Loyal?

GRADE 8 · 8.C.2.2.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, write P beside a political interest, E beside an economic interest, and F beside a family interest that could lead someone to support Britain. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did Samuel and Mara each hope to protect by supporting Britain?	**Samuel hoped to protect a familiar system of government. Mara hoped to protect her shop's supply of goods and her income.**
2	How did the economic risks Mara faced differ from the political risk Samuel faced?	**Interrupted deliveries could leave Mara with empty shelves and bills, and neighbors might stop buying from her. Samuel might lose his court position if Patriots took control.**
3	How did Leah's main reason for loyalty differ from Mara's?	**Leah wanted to remain near her father. Mara wanted to keep goods coming to her shop so she could earn a living.**
4	Both Samuel and Leah risked losing something important because of their choices. Compare what each could lose.	**Samuel could lose his court position if Patriots took control. Leah could lose her relationship with her brother if she stayed loyal to the king.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Nora owns a small farm, and her sister supports the king and works at a British military hospital. Nora worries that a new government might not honor the records showing where her land ends. She also wants to remain close to her sister during the war. Family matters more to Nora than her concern about land records because she values time with her sister above the farm's boundaries.

Accept comparisons that accurately distinguish government, livelihood, and family interests using evidence from the passage. For Your Turn, accept plausible invented circumstances if the student explains two distinct interests and identifies which has the stronger influence.