

PATRIOT

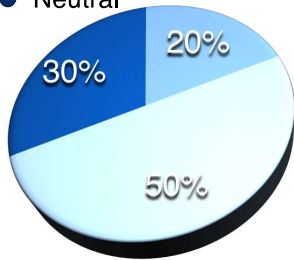


LOYALIST



VS

- Loyalists
- Patriots
- Neutral



At the start of the war, many colonist felt like they had to choose sides, to remain loyal to the British crown, or to choose revolution. The exact number of **Loyalists** or so called **Tories**,—those who opposed independence and remained loyal to the British, is unknown. Many with Loyalist sympathies changed sides as the war progressed. Historians however, have estimated them at about 15–20%. They were outnumbered by perhaps 2–1 by the Patriots, with nearly 50 percent of the population favoring revolution. Around 30 percent or more are estimated to have remained neutral.

Some Loyalists felt a special tie to the king because they had served as judges, councilors, or governors. Many Loyalists were often wealthier people, merchants, or people active in the Anglican Church. Some felt alienated when the Patriots resorted to violence, such as

burning houses and tarring and feathering. There were also concentrations of Loyalists in certain areas, such as New York and Long Island.

Patriots, those who wanted independence, believed that British taxes were unfair because the colonies didn't have any representation in Parliament. People who fought for the patriot cause were also those who saw economic opportunity in an independent America. They welcomed farmers, artisans, merchants, landowners, and elected officials. German colonists in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia also joined the fight for independence. While Patriots made up nearly half the population, many Americans remained neutral.

1. Why did some colonists oppose independence? _____

2. Do their arguments seem fair? Explain. _____

3. What might Patriots have said in reaction to these arguments? _____

4. Which side do you think was more reasonable? Why? _____

5. What percentage of colonists were Tories? _____

Directions: Read the following stories of colonists during the American Revolution. After reading each story, write whether the colonist would have been a Patriot or a Loyalist, and then explain why you made your decision.



Grafton Morgan is a slave from Virginia. His family is spread out over several owners. Grafton has never seen freedom. He was born into slavery, not abducted from his home country. Although the revolution is about liberty, Grafton knows it's not about his liberty. Grafton has heard that the British has promised freedom to slaves who will fight for the king.

Loyalist or Patriot? _____

Why? _____



PATRIOT vs. LOYALIST



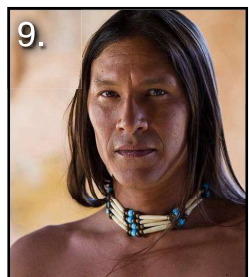
7. Eleanor Williams is a wealthy woman from New York City. Her husband's business earns enormous wealth and honor for the family. She is also related to several members of the House of Lords in the British Parliament. She worries about the amount of violence being committed by mobs protesting the influx of British laws. Eleanor and her husband fear that their wealth and their connections to Britain may cause them to be targets of the mob.

Loyalist or Patriot? _____
Why? _____



8. Oliver Taylor is a wealthy tea merchant in Boston. Taylor loves to make money and he doesn't care if he violates the law. Since the Townshend Acts placed a tax on tea, Taylor has been illegally importing tea from the Dutch. His ships usually have to hide from the British navy and British customs officials who can board his ships for inspection. He has been caught smuggling tea but has been able to buy off officials.

Loyalist or Patriot? _____
Why? _____



9. Ojistah is a Mohawk American Indian from the Iroquois league. Although the confederacy wanted to remain neutral, it has been drawn into the war. Now the league is split with not only nation fighting nation, but individual Iroquois within each nation are taking different sides. Because of the old alliances with the British Crown, and the view that the colonial settlers are a bigger threat to the invasion of their lands, a majority of the nations of the Iroquois Confederacy have sided with the British government. Only the Oneida and Tuscarora have given major support to the Americans. Even though Ojistah is not an American colonist and can't be labeled as a loyalist or patriot, which group did he most likely side with?

Loyalist or Patriot? _____
Why? _____



10. Henry Jones is a poor farmer in rural New York. Jones rarely pays any attention to what is going on in the city or the rest of the colonies. His attention is focused on the struggles to maintain his farm and feeding his family. Recently, his problems have become worse. Jones' landowner, a Loyalist, has had some financial problems is trying to get out of debt. He has raised Jones' rent a few times, but Jones' barely earns enough from selling his crops to pay the increase and feed his family. Henry Jones will be evicted from his farm. He and his wife have five children and fear they will be forced off their farm and homeless.

Loyalist or Patriot? _____
Why? _____