

Choosing Sides: Loyalist vs. Patriot

Document: Background Document for Teachers and Educators

During the years leading up to the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge and into the American Revolution, tensions were growing in the colonies between two major groups- the Loyalists and Patriots. Loyalists were those colonials who were loyal to the King of England. They may not have agreed with the policies and laws of the Crown, but they knew they had a duty to uphold the laws and remain loyal to the government that controlled their daily lives. The Patriots were those colonials who were growing weary of British rules and policies, especially when they had no say in how these laws would be made or implemented. They strived for freedom from a tyrannical royal government, often led by Royal Governors who suppressed any utterance of rebellion. The Patriots grew tired and weary of being British citizens without British rights. A third group of people in the colony were a group considered to be neutral- meaning they did not agree with being ruled by a Royal government, but feared the thought of trying to rebel against one of the most powerful countries in the world. So if you were a neutral, where would you have fit in?

Loyalists	Patriot
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Also known as Tories, King's Men, Royalists• Made up of:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Wealthy merchants○ Old "official" class○ Large planters○ Professional men○ Conservatives○ Scottish Highlanders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Also known as Whigs• Made up nearly half of the population, which included:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small farmers• Artisans• Some large landholders• Stood ready to fight for a "redress of grievances", for independence if need be• Feared tyranny and "no representation"