

## *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"> <li>• Also known as Tories, King’s Men, Royalists</li> <li>• <b>Made up of :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wealthy merchants</li> <li>○ Old “official” class</li> <li>○ Large planters</li> <li>○ Professional men</li> <li>○ Conservatives</li> <li>○ Scottish Highlanders <span style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px;">L L L S E P S E P</span></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Also known as Whigs</li> <li>• <b>Made up nearly half of the population, which included:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small farmers</li> <li>• Artisans</li> <li>• Some large landholders</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Stood ready to fight for a “redress of grievances”, for independence if need be</li> <li>• Feared tyranny and “no representation”</li> </ul>

**Colonist A**  
Script

Colonist A says to the classroom:

*"I come here today to offer you an opportunity to join the best side of the revolution"*

*"If you join me, and other smart men, you will be rewarded handsomely!"*

*"I say, the following will given unto you if you join"*

*"200 acres of FREE land and 20 years of no taxes!"*

*"But that's not all! Some of you may have said or done some bad things against our king or government. Don't worry you will be forgiven of any crimes you may have done against the government."*

*"If join our army you will receive pay and be paid for any of your personal equipment you use"*

*"Let me be clear. If you join my side you will get hundreds of acres of land, pay no taxes for 20 years, be paid as a soldier, and forgiven of your past crimes."*

*" This is the deal of a lifetime! Join me fellow colonists!"*

**Colonist B**  
Script

Colonist B says to the classroom:

*"My deal is much better! So listen to me my fellow colonists."*

*"If you join my side of the revolution I will make sure you do not lose any of the land you already have!"*

*"Even more important is that you will be free of a power hungry ruler who constantly makes unfair laws and taxes us!"*

*"Our army offers you a short-term contract of only serving 6 months terms and you get to keep your rank if you were in the other guy's military. So if you were a general in his army then you could be general in my army."*

*"I know land is very important to us colonists, so if you join our army you will be paid so you could buy land, which is hard to come by."*

*"Finally, if you enlist today, you will be paid a bonus of 15 pounds and that could buy you at least 30 acres or more of land here in Colonial North Carolina."*

*"So don't wait and come join my side of the revolution!"*

Title:

## ***Choosing Sides: Loyalist vs. Patriot***

NCES:

4.H.1.4 Analyze North Carolina's role in major conflicts and wars from the Pre-colonial period through Reconstruction.

Student will know:

- The role that various groups and individuals played in major conflicts and wars.

Overview/Purpose:

Students are examining 2 groups of the colonists and their views leading into the American Revolution. The lesson allows for two student volunteers to participate in roles, while the remainder of the class will listen the volunteers' reasons to side with them. The end of the lesson involves the entire class choosing a side they like and allows them to see the differences between a loyalist and a patriot.

Materials:

- Tricorn Hat – or you can use this printout! <http://allfreeprintable.com/cont/crft/pdf/patt-tricrn.pdf>
- Colonial Wig – or make one! <https://deceptivelyeducational.blogspot.com/2013/02/diy-george-washington-wig.html?showComment=1361456128157>
- Documents:
  - Which will you choose? (Copies for all students)
  - Background Document for Teachers

Prior Knowledge:

- The view of English rule on the 13 Colonies divided Americans
- The American Revolution caused Americans to fight against other Americans.

Vocabulary:

- Loyalist- a colonist who supported the crown/king of England
- Patriot- a colonist who rejected British rule over the colonies during the American Revolution

Activity:

1. Teacher should assign/volunteer two students to portray Colonist A and Colonist B.
2. Both students are given their script to practice and will perform a brief "campaign ad" in front of the entire class.
3. Both colonists will need to dress in character. Colonist A will wear the colonial wig and Colonist B the tricorn hat.
4. When both students are ready pass out the document "Which will you choose?" to all students.
5. Colonist A will read his/her script to the entire class.
6. Colonist B will read his/her script to the entire class.
7. Teacher will review what each student will gain or lose from each side when they join. (Refer to the student handout "Which will you choose?"). Also, the teacher can answer any clarifying questions for the students.
8. Have all students to brief write down their answer in the column on their handout "Which side would you choose and why?"
9. Option: Students can share their reasons out loud or share with a partner.
10. Teacher will conduct a vote on which colonist's side they would most likely join.
11. Teacher will reveal to the class the identity of Colonist A (Loyalist) and Colonist B (Patriot).
12. Teacher will share the information of who made up these two groups of people from the Background Document for Teachers to the class.

