

Loyalists Lesson Plan

Central Historical Question:

Why did some colonists support England and oppose independence?

Materials:

- Loyalists Documents A and B
- Loyalists Graphic Organizer

Plan of Instruction:

1. Introduction: *By 1775, the movement towards independence had gained traction. Thomas Paine's "Common Sense," which put forth the arguments for independence, was published in January 1776 and sold as many as 120,000 copies in the first three months, 500,000 in the first year, and went through twenty-five editions in the first year alone.*

However, as many as 15-20% of colonists remained loyal to the English King and opposed to independence.

Loyalists were often wealthier people, merchants, or people active in the Anglican Church. There were also concentrations of Loyalists in certain areas, such as New York and Long Island.

Massachusetts was NOT Loyalist territory. Many consider it to be the heart of the Revolution.

Ask students: *Why might some colonists have remained loyal to England?*

Elicit student responses.

2. Hand out Documents A and B. Have students complete graphic organizer.
3. Discussion:
 - Why did some colonists oppose independence?
 - Do their arguments seem reasonable?
 - What might Patriots have said in response to these arguments?
 - Which side do you think was more reasonable?

Citations:

Charles Inglis, "The True Interest of America Impartially Stated, 1776.
<http://odur.lct.rug.nl/~usa/D/1776-1800/libertydebate/inglis.htm>

Pennsylvania Packet, 2 January 1775, in David A. Copeland, *Debating the Issues in Colonial Newspapers: Primary Documents on Events of the Period*, Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2000, pp. 343-344.

Document A (Modified)

The True Interest of America Impartially Stated, 1776

Suppose we were to revolt from Great Britain, declare ourselves Independent, and set up a Republic of our own—what would be the consequence? My blood runs chill when I think of the calamities, the complicated evils that must follow. . .

Devastation and ruin must mark the progress of this war along the sea coast of America. So far, Britain has not exerted her power. Her number of troops and ships of war here at present, is very little more than she judged necessary in time of peace. . .

But as soon as we declare independence, ruthless war, with all its aggravated horrors, will ravage our once happy land. Our seacoasts and ports will be ruined, and our ships taken. Torrents of blood will be spilled, and thousands reduced to beggary and wretchedness.

By declaring independence, we would instantly lose all assistance from our friends in England. They will stop saying anything in our favour, for they would be seen as rebels, and treated accordingly.

The only European power from which we can possibly receive assistance, is France. But France is now at peace with Great Britain; and is it possible that France would interrupt that peace, and risk another war with England, from a disinterested motive of aiding and protecting these Colonies?

Vocabulary

calamity: disaster

disinterested: not motivated by personal interest

torrents: streams

Source: Charles Inglis, Anglican minister, wrote a pamphlet in response to Thomas Paine's "Common Sense," entitled "The True Interest of America Impartially Stated, 1776." Impartial means fair or objective.

Document B (Modified)

Pennsylvania Packet

January 2, 1775

My Friends and Countrymen,

This howling wilderness has been converted into a flourishing and populous country. But, is this not due to the way in which the colonies have been treated from the beginning? Isn't our growth a result of Great Britain's willingness to encourage our industry and protect us from foreign countries? If so, surely some degree of gratitude, such as becomes a free and liberal people, would be appropriate.

The peace and security we have already enjoyed under Great Britain's protection, before the mistaken system of taxation took place, must make us look back with regret to those happy days whose loss we mourn, and which every rational man must consider as the golden age of America.

Let us then, my friends and countrymen, be patient and avoid all inflammatory publications that are disrespectful to our most gracious Sovereign. Let us look forward to a happy termination of our present disputes, and a cordial reconciliation with our mother country.

Vocabulary

Flourishing: rapidly growing

Rational: reasonable

Inflammatory: arousing violent feelings

Cordial: warm and friendly

Reconciliation: existing in harmony

Source: The letter above was published by an anonymous writer in a Pennsylvania newspaper in 1775.

Graphic Organizer

Name _____

	Document A	Document B
<p>Sourcing:</p> <p><i>Who wrote this document?</i></p> <p><i>What type of document is it?</i></p> <p><i>When was it written?</i></p>		
<p>Close Reading:</p> <p><i>What are <u>two</u> reasons this author gives for why American colonists should be loyal to England?</i></p> <p><i>Provide a quote to support your answer.</i></p>		
<p>Contextualization:</p> <p><i>Based on this document, what can you infer about what life was like in the colonies in the 1770s?</i></p>		
<p>Corroboration:</p> <p><i>Based on these two letters, how did Loyalists feel about England's rule over the colonies?</i></p> <p><i>What would people who disagreed with them say?</i></p>		