

Attachment A: Patriot, Loyalist, or Neutral? What's the Difference?



During the American Revolution, the American colonists had to decide to support the War for Independence or remain loyal to the British and King George III. Some Americans could not decide which side to choose and remained “undecided” or neutral during the war.

Patriots

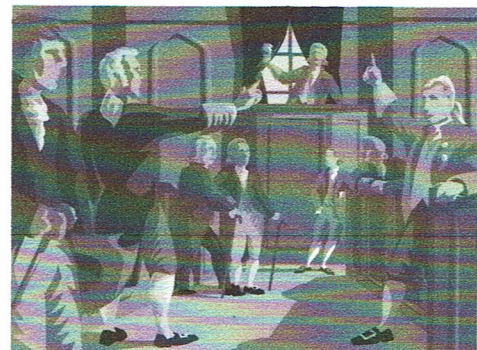
Those who supported complete independence from Britain were known as **Patriots**. Most Patriots supported independence because they felt that recent British laws on the American Colonies violated their rights as British citizens (e.g. taxing without consent, **quartering** soldiers in citizens’ homes, and denying colonists the right to a trial). Many of the patriots’ ideas on liberty came from the **Magna Carta**, an English document from the 13th century. The Magna Carta set forth the **rule of law** in which everyone must obey the law, even the king. The Patriots were also inspired by John Locke. From Locke came the belief that people have basic rights to life, liberty and property and the idea that government should be based on the **consent of the governed**. Many Patriots lived in the New England Colonies, especially Massachusetts. Colonists who were in debt with British creditors often became Patriots since they hoped winning the Revolution could get them out of paying back their debt. The Patriots were the largest group among the colonists.

Loyalists

The colonists who opposed independence from Britain were known as **Loyalists** or “**Tories**”. Most Loyalists who opposed independence tended to be wealthy landowners, Anglican clergymen, or people with close cultural, business or political ties to Britain. They **justified** Britain’s taxation on the colonies. There was a high concentration of Loyalists in New York City and in the Southern Colonies. Many Loyalists agreed that the American colonists had suffered at the hands of the British but the Loyalists hoped that a peaceful **reconciliation** with British government was possible. However, loyalists believed that the Patriots were the enemy and any call for independence from England was an act of **treason**. During the Revolution taking a Loyalists stance was dangerous, especially in the Southern Colonies. Many Loyalists were brutally attacked and killed. Their property was destroyed or **confiscated**. Loyalists by thousands fled the American Colonies for their own safety. Some Loyalists moved to England and many more moved to nearby Canada.

Undecided/Neutral

Those colonists that did not agree with either side were neutral. They were undecided because they simply believed in peaceful resolution without having to choose a side. This group was willing to accept whatever the outcome of the war would be. Among this group were devout Quakers and other reluctant colonists who wanted no part in any fight for independence.



Attachment B

Patriot, Loyalist, or Neutral

Directions: Read "*Patriot, Loyalist, or Neutral? What's the Difference?*" (see attachment: A). Complete the following graphic organizer:

Who were they? What do they believe and want?

Patriots: (Who they were):

(What they believe and want):

Loyalists: (Who they were):

(What they believe and want):

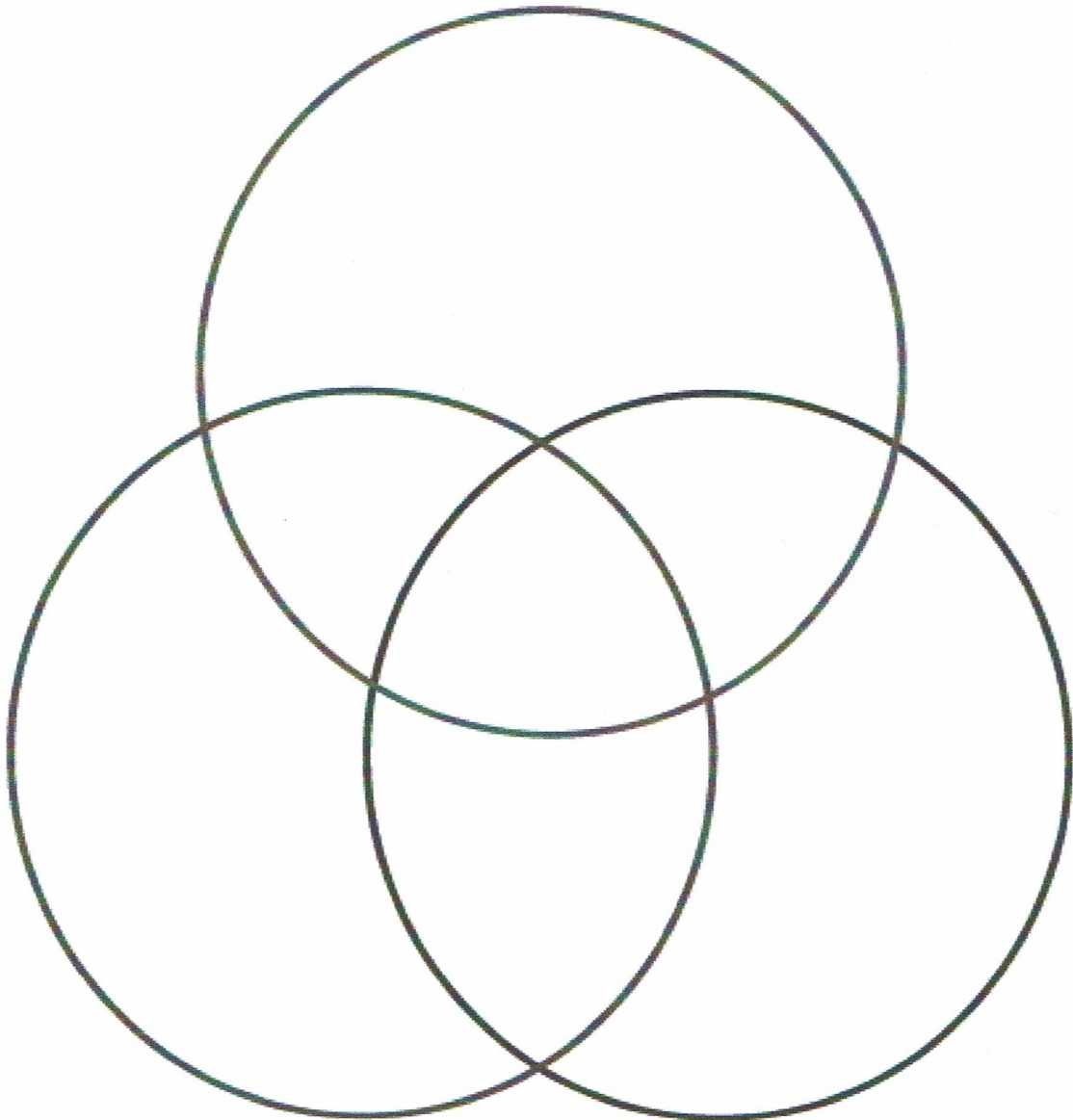
Neutrals: (Who they were):

(What they believe and want):

Attachment C

Directions: After completing the Part 1 of this lesson. Use the information you compiled to label and complete the Venn Diagram identifying the differences and similarities of the Patriots, Loyalists and Undecideds.

Different Political Ideas of Patriots, Loyalists and Undecideds



Optional Activity: On a separate piece of paper write a 5 paragraph essay explaining the ideas of these three political beliefs.

Attachment D

Patriot, Loyalist, or Neutral? You decide

Directions: Read the following story about each colonist during the American Revolution. After, circle whether the colonists would have been a Patriot, Loyalist or a neutral. Write a brief explanation for your decision.

Colonist A

Colonist A is a poor farmer in the Hudson Valley of New York. Colonist A has paid no attention to the trouble brewing in the colonies. His day to day struggle to maintain his farm and family is what worries him. His problems have recently become worse; his landowner, a Loyalist, has had some financial troubles and to get himself out of his enormous debts, his landowner raised Colonist A's rent three times in the last five months. Colonist A barely earns enough from selling his crops to pay the original rent amount and now with the raise in the rent, Colonist A will be evicted from his farm. He and his wife have six children and fear they will have nowhere to go if they are forced to leave the farm.

Patriot

Loyalist

Neutral

Reason for decision:

Colonist B

Colonist B is a wealthy woman from New York City. Her husband's business earns tremendous wealth and honor for the family. She frequently claims to be related to several members of the House of Lords in the British Parliament. She worries about the amount of violence being committed by mobs of men called the Sons of Liberty. She and her husband fear that their wealth and their connections to Britain may cause them to be targets of the mob.

Patriot

Loyalist

Neutral

Reason for decision:

Colonist C

Colonist C is a wealthy tea merchant in Boston. Colonist C's goal in life is to make money and he doesn't care if he violates the law. Since the Townshend Acts placed a tax on tea, Colonist C has been illegally importing tea from the Dutch. His ships frequently have to hide from the British navy and British customs officials who can board his ships whenever they please. Recently he was caught smuggling in tea, but fortunately he was able to buy off the official with a large sum of money. Friends have informed Colonist C that the Royal Governor of Massachusetts has issued an arrest warrant for Colonist C, and friends advise him to go into hiding.

Patriot

Loyalist

Neutral

Reason for decision:

Colonist D

Colonist D is a merchant from rural Virginia. He follows the British laws and sells all of his goods, mainly tobacco to the British. Colonist D's lifestyle is extravagant and spends large amounts of his money purchasing the finest clothes and furnishings from Europe. As a young boy, his father sent him to study in Britain and he hopes that next year, he too will send his son to Britain, the only place in his mind one can get a decent education. Due to his rich lifestyle, Colonist D is in heavy debt with several British banks. He fears that the people he owes money to will foreclose his property.

Patriot

Loyalist

Neutral

Reason for decision:

Colonist E

Colonist E is originally from Germany and lives on the Pennsylvania Frontier. Colonist E decided to move his family out of the Pennsylvania colony into the fertile Ohio Valley. He plans to move near a British fort in the Ohio Valley which can provide protection from Indians. As Colonist E and his family moved towards the Ohio Valley, British soldiers stopped him and informed him that the Proclamation of 1763 prohibits him from moving into the Ohio Valley.

Patriot

Loyalist

Neutral

Reason for decision:

Colonist F

Colonist F is a merchant in New York City. His business imports many products from Europe, especially Britain. Colonist F has secretly grown concerned over the recent talk of independence from Britain. He fears an independent America could not protect his ships at sea; the British navy escorts colonial ships as they cross the Atlantic to protect the ships from pirates or foreign ships wanting to steal goods. Since the Townshend Acts, the Sons of Liberty have been bullying storeowners into removing British goods from their shelves. A store owner friend of his was badly beaten up by a mob of Son's of Liberty for selling British products. Since hearing of his friend's attack, Colonist F has participated with the boycotts.

Patriot

Loyalist

Neutral

Reason for decision:

Colonist G

Colonist G lives close to Boston's waterfront. He has very little money and cares little about politics. He works on docks loading and unloading the ships and at night he hangs out and plays cards in one of the many taverns along the waterfront. He has been known to spend a few nights in jail after fighting in the taverns. His toughness has caught the eye of the Sons of Liberty and for months they have been trying to recruit him. Colonist G accepted their rum and ale but refused to join the Sons of Liberty. Yesterday, Colonists G was informed that he was out of a job because the British passed a series of acts called the Intolerable Acts which closed Boston Harbor to trade.

Patriot

Loyalist

Neutral

Reason for decision: