

Module 2: The American Revolution - 1750s to the 1780s
Topic 1 Content: Choosing Sides Notes

Introduction



As tensions grew in America, colonists had to choose sides. Colonists had a great deal to gain or lose based on their political views. Religious obligations, money, and family are all aspects of colonial life that would be jeopardized based on how a colonist aligned. Three groups of colonists existed prior to the Revolutionary War. Click **Start** to learn about Patriots, Loyalists, and Neutrals.

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Definitions

Click each of the group names to learn about the differences that exist between them. [NEXT](#)

Patriot
Patriots were colonists who believed in independence from England. They believed that the differences between colonists and the British were too great to reconcile. An estimated 40% of colonists were considered Patriots.

Loyalist
Loyalists were colonists who remained loyal to the British government. They felt that taxation was justified in order to pay for the protection of the colonies from Native American attacks. An estimated 20% of colonists were considered Loyalists.

Neutral
Neutrals were colonists who chose to side neither with Patriots, nor the Loyalists. Neutrals took no part in the battles between the Loyalists and Patriots. An estimated 40% of colonists were considered Neutrals.

Click each of the group names to learn about the differences that existed between them.