



• **Time to Choose Sides –**

Patriot, Loyalist, or Neutral

Unit 6, Lesson 15





What groups or teams do you belong to?

Warm up

**The conflict between the colonies
and their mother country (England)
forced colonists to take sides**



Time to Choose Sides

Resource 1

Resource 1: Time to Choose Sides

Before the French and Indian War, the people living in the 13 British colonies were proud to be Englishmen. They were proud of their King, proud of the representative form of government, proud of the freedom and rights of Englishmen that they enjoyed, proud of their country's power and the size of its empire. And most were happy because England let them govern themselves. It is reasonable to say that many (not all) people living within the British empire sincerely believed that they lived in the greatest place on earth.

The French & Indian War changed that for many colonists. It truly was a turning point. The war caused Britain to fall deeply into debt. As a result, the King and Parliament had to take steps to repay their massive debt. This meant that authorities in England were now going to pay more attention to ruling the colonies and making use of their value.

As you have learned, the new laws passed by Parliament angered many colonists. At the same time, however, many colonists also grew concerned that a revolution was underway and that it was unleashing some rather violent mobs. This made some colonists nervous.

Patriots



The tensions and conflict between the colonists and British authorities had the effect of forcing people to take sides. Some would choose to support groups such as the Sons and Daughters of Liberty. They became known as "**Patriots**." A "patriot" was a person who strongly supported colonists who were protesting British laws and defending their rights as Englishmen.

Loyalists

A second group came to be called "**Loyalists**" or "Tories." Loyalists were people living in the 13 colonies who still considered Great Britain to be the greatest country on earth. They were raised believing that it was their duty to respect British authorities such as the King and members of Parliament and found it difficult to support people who were rebelling and using violence to achieve their goals. Loyalists preferred the comforts of order over the uncertainty that came with rebellion and revolution. They worried that violent mobs would end up running America if the colonies broke away from Great Britain. But some also wondered whether the King and Parliament would be able to control the violent mobs.



Neutrals

A third group felt they were unaffected by the troubles or simply chose to stay out of the conflict. These were people who chose to remain neutral - not helping or supporting either the Patriots or the Loyalists. Let us call them the "**Neutrals**."

At this point, it makes sense to think about the "revolution" that was taking place and why people choose to become Patriots, Loyalists, or Neutrals. And what about you? If you lived during the revolution, which side would you have chosen?

Let us begin by reviewing key events that happened after the French & Indian War.

- Why is the French and Indian War considered a turning point in American history?
- What changes after the French and Indian War and why did it change?
- Which sides could the colonists have chosen during the American Revolution?
- How were the sides different?

Timeline of the American Revolution

Proclamation of 1763
Colonists cannot move west of Appalachian Mountains

Parliament Passes Quartering Act (1765)
colonists must shelter and feed British soldiers

Stamp Act Riots
colonists argue that taxation without representation is tyranny

Parliament Passes Declaratory Act (1766)
declares Parliament can tax colonists - adds new taxes on paint and tea

Boston Tea Party (1773)
colonists dump British tea into Boston Harbor

Battles of Lexington and Concord (1775)

French and Indian War ends (1763)
Britain now has a huge debt

British Troops Remain Stationed in the Colonies (1763)

Parliament Passes the Stamp Act (1765)
a tax on legal documents and paper goods

Parliament Repeals (ends) the Stamp Act (1766)

Boston Massacre (1770)
5 colonists shot and killed by British soldiers

Parliament Passes Intolerable Acts (1774)
Boston port closed until tea is paid for

Why might colonists choose to become a **Patriot**, a **Loyalist**, or a **Neutral**?

Patriot	Neutral	Loyalist

You Take a Side: Given the information that you inserted in the chart above, which group do you think that you would have been a part of in 1775 - after the battles of Lexington and Concord? Circle one and be prepared to explain why.

Patriot

Neutral

Loyalist



Which side would you have chosen?



Patriots

Neutrals

Loyalists

WHY?

