V M
H CAMERICAN
REVOLUTION 250TH
ANNIVERSARY LESSON

Choosing Sides in the American Revolution



Choosing Sides in the American Revolution

Objective: Students will explore the stories of individuals who chose to support either the British Army or Continental Army in order to understand that choices were varied and based on many factors. Note: These are individuals who are not named in the standards.

Grade Level(s) Based on 2015 Standards:

- VS.1 Skills a-h; VS.4 b-e; VS.5 a-d
- USI.1 Skills a-h; USI.5 a-e; USI.6 a-d
- VUS.1 Skills a-h; VUS.3 a-c; VUS.4 a-e

Grade Level(s) Based on 2023 Standards:

- VS. Skills a-I; VS.2 c, e; VS.4 a-f; VS.5 a-d
- USI Skills a-I; USI.5 a-e; USI.6 a-e
- VUS Skills a-j; VUS Skills a-j; VUS.3 e; VUS.5 a-g

Materials Needed:

- Character Card A Short bio of a real person
- Character Card B Reveal as Patriot or Loyalist
- Slide Show Compares & Contrasts some of the people

Intro:

1. Explain what the terms Patriot, Loyalist, & Neutral Mean

- a. Patriot someone who supported the Continental Army
- b. Loyalist someone who supported the British Army
- c. Neutral did not take a strong stand on either side
- 2. Ask students what reasons someone might have to support one side vs. the other? You can see an example chart at the end of the packet with some of our answers!

Main Lesson (Note: Character Cards are included after the example chart templates at the end of the packet):

1. Divide the students into pairs. Give each pair a Character Card A and have them say

whether they think that person is Patriot or Loyalist. They must be able to explain why. 2. After going through each pair, give them the Character Card B that corresponds with their Character Card A. Were they correct? If so, what made them think that? If no, why didn't they guess that?

3. Note: We have provided a list of the individuals and how we know what side they supported at the end of this packet, if you would like to incorporate that information to encourage students to think about how primary sources give us this information.

Wrap Up:

1. Use slideshow to compare & contrast some choices to drive home the point that people from similar backgrounds made different choices. History isn't always easy or cut & dry! Note – the PowerPoint does not cover every individual on the cards.

a. PowerPoint can be accessed via Google Drive here:

i. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1LyHPMV6WNqallboR8v-5goz5ErzW5AF6?usp=sharing

2. Did this change the way that students think about Patriots vs. Loyalists? Why or why not?

Extension:

Follow this lesson up with either "Pass the Policy!" to develop a deeper understanding of Patriot & Loyalist events or "Who is the Traitor?" to develop a deeper understanding of Patriot & Loyalist perspectives, primary sources, and artifacts.

What are some factors that could influence whether a person decided to be a Patriot or Loyalist? *Note: Some people were also Neutral, which means they didn't heavily support one side or the other! (Monarchy, Representation Style of Government (taxation, debt, trade) Education Economy Others? Slavery Family lssue Patriot Loyalist

Chart Activity (With & Without Answers)

Brainstorm activity

Brainstorm activity key This answer key is general. Find out more about specific reasons through reading the biographies of the people covered in this lesson!

lssue	Patriot	Loyalist
Economy (taxation, debt, trade)	 Do not like Stamp, Tea, and Sugar Act Stressed by economic limitations Interested in trading with other countries 	 Want economic stability of British rule Business interests in England Fear of stricter economic policies Interested in protecting trade with Britain
Family/Community	 Family raised in Colonies Reaction to treatment of other colonists in actions like Boston Massacre Family supported the Patriot side 	 Family moved directly from England Family history serving in British military Family supported the Loyalist side
Education	Reading philosophical ideas (Enlightenment era)	 Educated in England or by English school in colonies
Style of Government (Monarchy, Representation)	 Against having a king Feel colonists are not represented in British Parliament Want to make their own rules 	 Believe in divine right of Kings Enjoy British protection Feel they are properly represented in Parliament
Slavery	 Believed in the ideas of "life and liberty" for all people 	 Dunmore's Proclamation - enslaved people running away from Patriot owners to find freedom with British army
Others?	 Interested in Westward Expansion 	 Upset by vigilante justice groups like Sons of Liberty Indigenous groups intersted in protecting land west of Proclamation line of 1963



I. CLEMENTINA RIND

DESPITE DYING BEFORE CONSIDERED TO HAVE OFFICIALLY STARTED, PATRIOT LEANINGS **CLEMENTINA IS** THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION GENERALLY

(PAMUNKEY, MAN) **2. ROBERT MURSH**

SAW ACTION IN BATTLES SUCH TRIBE, ROBERT MURSH JOINED A MEMBER OF THE PAMUNKEY CAPTURED AS A PRISONER OF THROUGHOUT THE WAR AND **REMAINED WITH THE ARMY** AS A SOLDIER IN 1776. HE GERMANTOWN. HE WAS AS BRANDYWINE AND **WAR IN 1780.**

4. PEYTON RANDOLPH (WHITE, MAN)

4. PEYTON RANDOLPH

CAMPBELL

& EDUCATED AT WILLIAM PEVTON RANDOLPH WAS BORN IN WILLIAMSBURG AND PLANTER WHO WAS A WEALTHY POLITICIAN **BROTHER SUPPORTED** & MARY. HIM & HIS DESPITE SIMILIAR **OPPOSITE SIDES**, UPBRINGINGS.

PATRIOT.

2. ROBERT MURSH

CONTINENTAL ARMY AS A PATRIOT IN THE ISTH **UIRGINIA REGIMENT. ROBERT JOINED THE**

PRESIDENT OF THE FIRST **ENGLAND. AS A PATRIOT PEYTON WAS A STRONG** INDEPENDENCE FROM HE SERVED AS THE **ADUOCATE FOR** CONTINENTAL AND SECOND CONGRESS



(WHITE, MAN) **ORIGINALLY FROM**

EDINBURGH AND MOUED TO SCOTLAND, CRAIK STUDIED **WORKED AS A DOCTOR FOR REUOLUTIONARY WAR, HE UIRGINIA IN THE 1750S.** MEDICINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE MILITARY. DURING THE

5. ANDREW LEWIS

5. ANDREW LEWIS

CONTINENTAL ARMY. HIS DUNMORE EVACUATING **CONGRESS APPOINTED DUNMORE AND LED TO** ANDREW BRIGADIER **PATRIOT FORCES GENERAL IN THE** DEFEATED LORD **UIRGINIA.**

(FREE BLACK MAN) 6. WILLIAM FLORA

MILITARY THROUGHOUT THE **TO FREE AFRICAN AMERICAN** KNOWN AS BILLY, WAS BORN PARENTS IN PORTSMOUTH. WILLIAM FLORA, BETTER **BATTLE OF VORKTOWN.** INCLUDING DURING THE **UA. HE SERUED IN THE** REUOLTUIONARY WAR,

7. JAMES CRAIK

FRIENDS WITH GEORGE WASHINTON, SERVING JAMES BECAME CLOSE **PHYSICIAN. HE WAS A AS HIS PERSONAL** DOCTOR FOR THE (PATRIOT) ARMY CONTINENTAL AFTER THE WAR.

8. PETER FRANSISCO (WHITE, MAN)

PORTUGAL, BUT HE WAS RAISED BECAME INVOLVED IN THE WAR CLAIMS, FOLLOWED FRANCISCO **BEING A TEENAGER IN 1776, HE** SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS SOME OUTLANDISH IN THEIR THE "UIRGINIA GIANT," PETER MANY LEGENDARY STORIES, IN UIRGINIA. DESPITE ONLY FRANCISCO WAS FROM

BRAUERV, HEIGHT, AND

KNOWN FOR HIS

STRENGTH WHILE

FIGHTING IN THE

CONTINENTAL ARMY.

PETER WAS A PATRIOT

8. PETER FRANSISCO

DUNMORE'S LOVALISTS A HERO AT THE BATTLE **VICTORY OVER LORD** -AN EARLY PATRIOT HE JOINED THE

6. WILLIAM FLORA

OF GREAT BRIDGE IN 1775 WILLIAM WAS HAILED AS CONTINENTAL ARMY



CHARLOTTE BELSON THORNTON BECAME A WIDOW IN 1769. SHE WAS OUTSPOKEN REGARDING HER OPINIONS DURING THE WAR, DECLARING THAT SHE "DISAPPROUED" OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN UIRGINIA.

9. CHARLOTTE THORNTON

LOVALIST CHARLOTTE CALLED HERSELF "THE ONLY WIDOW IN THE COLONY OF UIRGNINA, WHOSE LOVALTY EMBOLDENED HER...TO FLY TO GREAT BRITAIN."

II. HARRY WASHINGTON (ENSLAVED BLACK MAN)

HARRY WASHINGTON WAS ENSLAVED BY GEORGE WASHINGTON AT MOUNT VERNON. HE HAD RUN AWAY PRIOR TO THE WAR BUT WAS CAPTURED AND RETURNED TO MOUNT VERNON. HE DECIDED TO TAKE UP ARMS AND FIGHT IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR TO GAIN HIS FREEDOM.

II. HARRY WASHINGTON

LOVALIST HARRY FLED FROM MOUNT UERNON TO THE BRITISH TROOPS IN 1776 AS A MEANS TO SEIZE HIS FREEDOM THROUGH LORD DUNMORE'S PROCLAIMATION

10. JOHN RANDOLPH (WHITE, MAN)

JOHN RANDOLPH WAS A WEALTHY POLITICIAN AND PLANTER WHP WAS BORN IN WILLIAMSBURG & WAS EDUCATED AT WILLIAM AND MARV. HIM & HIS BROTHER SUPPORTED OPPOSITE SIDES, DESPITE SIMILIAR UPBRINGINGS.

IO. JOHN RANDOLPH

AS A LOVALIST, JOHN RANDOLPH LEFT UIRGINIA AND MOUED TO ENGALND. THERE HE WORKED TO SUPPORT THE BRITISH GOUERNMENT.

I2. MARV PERTH (ENSLAVED BLACK WOMAN)

12. MARY PERTH

MARV PERTH WAS ENSLAUED BY JOHN WILLOUGHBY OF NORFOLK. DURING THE CHAOS OF THE WAR SHE AND HER DAUGHTER PATIENCE MANAGED TO ESCAPE

SHE AND HER DAUGHTER PATIENCE MANAGED TO ESCAPE FROM SLAVERV. AFTER THE WAR, RECORDS SHOW HER LIVING IN NEW YORK AS A FREE WOMAN, WITH HER HUSBAND CAESAR AND HER DAUGHTER, PATIENCE.

MARV FOLLOWED THE BRITISH ARMV TO HER FREEDOM, RISKING DISEASE AND RECAPTURE. HER FAMILY EUACUATED WITH THE BRITISH AND OTHER LOVALISTS TO NOUA SCOTIA AND LATER SIERRA LEON.



FIGURE SINCE HE HELD A TITLE WASHINGTON. OVERTIME, THE IMPORTANT ARISTOCRATIC **TWO MEN BECOME CLOSE** AND WAS A WEALTHY LANDOWNER.

I3. LORD FAIRFAX

13. LORD FAIRFAX

(WHITE, MAN)

DESPITE HIS FRIENDSHIP REMAINED FRIENDS WASHINGTON & HIM LOVAL TO ENGLAND. FAIRFAX REMAINED WASHINGTON, LORD **DESPITE DIFFERING** WITH GEORGE ALLEGIANCES

14. RALPH WORMELEV (WHITE, MAN)

GOUERNOR'S COUNCIL. AFTER THE VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGRATES WAR, HE REMAINED IN UIRGINIA **RATIFICATION CONVENTION OF TOBACCO TAX COLLECTOR. IN ENGLAND. UPON RETURN TO** AND WAS INVOLVED IN THE **1771, HE JOINED UIRGINIA'S UIRGINIA, HE WORKED AS A** SCHOLAR WHO STUDIED IN **RALPH WORMELEY WAS A** AND CONSTITUTIONAL

14. RALPH WORMELEV

SO MANY SUSPECTED HE **WORMELEY'S BROTHERS** ENGLAND AS LOVALIST, **ALL FOUGHT FOR** WAS AS WELL.

(WHITE, MAN) **15. JONATHAN** BOUCHER

GEORGE'S STEPSON, JOHN PARKE ANGLICAN MINISTER. HE MOUED MINISTERED AND TAUGHT. HE JONATHAN BOUCHER WAS AN WAS FRIENDS WITH GEORGE TO THE CHESAPEAKE REGION WASHINGTON AND TUTORED FROM ENGLAND, WHERE HE CUSTIS.

15. JONATHAN BOUCHER

LOVALIST, HE BELIEVED IN JONATAHN MOUED BACK MONARCHY TO GOUERN THE DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS, OR THAT GOD CHOSE THE BRITISH WITH WAR ON THE **TO ENGLAND. AS A** HORIZON IN 1775, THEIR SUBJECTS.

IG. HENRY BAWBEE (WYANDOT, MAN)

1788.

TO BE SENT TO THE BRAFFERTON **OF THE CHIEF. HE WAS SELECTED** THE WYANDOT TRIBE AND A SON INDIAN SCHOOL AT THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY IN 1775. FOUGHT ALONGSIDE OTHERS IN HE JOINED THE MILITARY AND HENRY BAWBEE WAS PART OF THE WYANDOT TRIBE

IG. HENRY BAWBEE

THE BRITISH ARMY AS A **ALIGNED THEMSELUES BAWBEE FOUGHT FOR** THE WYANDOT TRIBE WITH THE BRITISH. LOVALIST.

Patriots

Clementina Rind (white, woman, newspaper printer) - After the death of her husband, William Rind, Clementina Rind continued to run his newspaper business as Virginia's designated public printer and published Thomas Jefferson's bold resolution, A Summary View of the Rights of British America in August 1774.

• "At a time when the liberties of the colonies are daringly infringed, and despotism is exerting her baneful influence in the minds of those who wish not a well to the just privileges of America..." - Virginia Gazette (Rind), May 19, 1774, page 2.

Christiana Campbell (white, woman, tavern owner) - Following her husband's death, Christiana moved her family to Williamsburg where she eventually opened Christiana Campbell's Tavern in 1771, a space that hosted George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and others as they discussed ever-growing concerns about the relationship between the colonies and Parliament.

- "Dined at Mrs. Campbells" 5 May 1786 -G. Washington
- "She was humane, generous, and kind...An enemy to oppression, A friend to the distressed" Grave Epitaph

Robert Mursh (Pamunkey, man, soldier) - A member of the Pamunkey tribe and alumnus of the Brafferton Indian School at the College of William and Mary, Robert Mursh chose to join the Continental Army in 1776, serving in the 15th Virginia Regiment. He remained with the army throughout the war and saw action in pivotal battles such as Brandywine and Germantown. Captured with other Virginia soldiers at Charleston in 1780, he spent 14 months as a prisoner of war.

• Pension application can be found here: https://revwarapps.org/w8416.pdf

Peyton Randolph (white, man, politician & planter) - The American Revolution tore families apart, as individuals made different decisions about who to support. Peyton Randolph was a strong advocate and leader for American Independence, serving as the President of the First and Second Continental Congress. His brother, John Randolph, left for England to support the British government.

- "the unshaken patriot." Mercy Otis Warren about Randolph
- "Thus has American liberty lost a powerful Advocate, and human nature a sincere friend." Richard Henry Lee

Andrew Lewis (white, man, soldier) - Hailing from the Shenandoah Valley backcountry of Virginia, Andrew Lewis was a prominent military leader and politician. During the Revolution, Congress appointed him as a Brigadier General in the Continental Army, and in 1776, his forces defeated Lord Dunmore's, forcing Dunmore to evacuate Virginia.

- "that they [English army] have Nothing to hope for in the Prosecution of their cruel and oppressive Plan, evidently calculated for the spilling the Blood of Part of us, and subjugating the Remainder to a State of Slavery." – a letter to George Washington
- "I shall esteem it an honour as well as great Satisfaction to receive a Line from you as often as you have Leizure to think of your Excellencys Most obedeant and Very Humble Servant" Andrew Lewis to George Washington, 1779

William "Billy" Flora (Free Black man, Patriot) - Billy was born to free African American parents and was hailed a hero at the Battle of Great Bridge in 1775—an early patriot victory over Lord Dunmore's Loyalists. Later, he joined the Continental Army and served throughout the war, including during the Battle of Yorktown.

 "Billy Flora was well known in Portsmouth and the surrounding country, and was always greatly respected for his good conduct during the revolutionary war, and for his remarkable civility afterwards. He was a true patriot to the last." Editor's Note on pages 5-6 in "The Battle of Great Bridge" published in The Virginia Historical Register & Literary Companion, Volume 6, 1853.

James Craik (white, man, doctor) - Originally from Scotland, Craik studied at the University of Edinburgh before joining the British Army. He moved to Virginia in the 1750s and befriended George Washington during the French and Indian War. He later became a doctor in the Continental Army.

 "Mrs Craik joins me in Sincere Prayers for your health & prosperity—and that God may grant you a Glorious & Successfull Campaign" – Letter from James Craik to GW in 1777

Peter Francisco (man, Portuguese, soldier): Sometimes referred to as "Virginia Hercules" or the "Virginia Giant," Peter Francisco was a Portuguese-American patriot known for his tall stature and heroism during battle, despite only being a teenager in 1776. Many legendary stories, some outlandish in their claims, followed Francisco after the war.

• "[I] never felt satisfied, nor thought [I] did a good day's work, but by drawing British blood, and if that was not the case, could not have a good night's repose" - Letter of Peter Francisco to the General Assembly

Loyalists

Charlotte Belson Thornton (white, woman) - Charlotte Belson Thornton was widowed in 1769 and became a vocal advocate for the king when war broke out, declaring that she "disapproved of the illegal proceedings of the people of Virginia" and declared herself "the only Widow in the Colony of Virginia, whose Loyalty emboldened her to quit her Possession there, & fly to Great Britain."

• "Not many years after Colonel Thornton's death in 1769, the loyalty of this lady to her king at 'home' was much disturbed at the signs of the times, foreboding the political change in the relationship between the colonies and the English government. She, in consequence thereof, shortly before the war, left this country and removed to England with all her children, and among them her three sons, Presly Thornton, John Tayloe, and Charles Wade Thornton." - Letter from Judge John Tayloe Lomax, son in law of Captain Presly Thornton, dated 1 Oct 1858.

John Randolph (white, man, planter & politician) - The American Revolution tore families apart, as individuals made different decisions about who to support. Peyton Randolph was a strong advocate and leader for American Independence, serving as the President of the First and Second Continental Congress. His brother, John Randolph, left for England to support the British government.

• The Americans... may, with Propriety, be called the Children, and England the Mother of them. We are not only allied by blood, but are still father united by the extensive traide and comers carried between us. Our manners are similar, our relgion and language the same. There is no diversity between the Laws of each Contry, but suceh as local Circumstances have occasioned" - From "Considerations on the Present State of Virginia", 1774 https://www.loc.gov/item/19012003/

Harry Washington – (enslaved, man) - Harry, a man enslaved by George Washington at Mount Vernon, fled to the British in 1776 as a means of seizing freedom through Lord Dunmore's Proclamation.

• "Delivering up the Negroes to their former masters... would be delivering them up some possibly to execution and others to severe punishment." - Sir Guy Carleton, commander of remaining British forces at time of departure, in response to G. Washington.

• "Harry Washington, 43, [fine] fellow. [Formerly the property] of General Washington; left him 7 [years ago]." - From Book of Negros, listing all Black people who departed for Nova Scotia on L'Abondance, 31 July 1783

Mary Perth – (enslaved, female) - Mary Perth was enslaved by John Willoughby of Norfolk, and when the opportunity for freedom arose, Mary and her daughter, Patience, followed the

British army, risking disease and recapture. After the war, Mary's name appeared in the Book of Negroes, in New York, as a freed woman, wife of Caesar Perth, and mother to Patience. Mary's family evacuated with the British to Nova Scotia and later to Sierra Leone, West Africa.

• "Mary Perth, 43...formerly the property of John Willoughby of Norfolk, Virginia, left him 7 years ago, G - From 'Book of Negros, pg 27 – National Archives

Lord Fairfax, 6th Lord of Cameron (white, wealthy, British Lord) - Thomas Baron Cameron lived near George Washington and became a close friend throughout Washington's lifetime. He was an important aristocratic figure as he was titled, wealthy, and a landowner. Washington remained respectful to him despite their different allegiances during the war.

• As the only resident British peer in the American colonies, Fairfax never renounced his title or formally declared allegiance to the revolutionary cause. His status as a British nobleman and lack of involvement in Revolutionary government affairs despite being a large landowner implies a natural inclination toward loyalty to the Crown.

Ralph Wormeley (white, male, planter, politician) - Wormeley was a scholar, and his family sent him to England to earn his education at Eton. Once he returned to Virginia, he worked as a tobacco tax collector. In 1771, he joined Virginia's Governor's Council and remained in this role until the start of the Revolutionary War. Many suspected him of being a Loyalist during the war, as his brothers fought for the British. Nevertheless, Wormeley remained in Virginia and continued his role in politics, even partaking in the Virginia House of Delegates and the Constitutional Ratification Convention of 1788.

 "but the said Letter being, in the opinion of this Committee, a full proof...of the said Ralph Wormeley, Jun⁻, Esq⁻, against the rights of America, and showing a readiness to join the enemies of this Colony." - From the Proceedings of Virginia Committee of Safety, April 22 1776 -

Jonathan Boucher (white, male, minister): Boucher was an Anglican minister and a wellknown Loyalist in the South. Originally from England, he moved to the Chesapeake region and began ministering and teaching. He befriended George Washington and even tutored his stepson, John Parke Custis. When war loomed in 1775, Boucher left the colonies for England. He adhered to the Divine Right of King's theory –believing the British monarchy was chosen by God to govern their subjects.

• "I will continue to pray for the King; and all who are in authority under him ... As long as I live ... will I ... proclaim: God save the King!" - 1775 sermon

Henry Bawbee (Wyandot tribe, male): Bawbee was the son of a Wyandot chief. The tribe selected him to be sent to the Brafferton School in 1775. The tribe aligned themselves with the British and Bawbee fought with the British Army.

 "A half Indian of the name of Bawbee, brought me a draft of the Works [fort] at Detroit, which I take the liberty to enclose. He dropped some hints of his being in British pay and I confined him in Irons but know not how to punish him without bringing more trouble upon the Inhabitants." -Col Daniel Brodhead in letter to G. Washington, 7 Dec 1780