

Patriots vs. Loyalists: Perspective Debate Cards

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will compare the reasoning and motivations of Patriots and Loyalists during the Revolution.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- index cards (8+)
- pen
- notebook paper

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Research and write 4 Patriot arguments for supporting independence, one per index card.
2. Research and write 4 Loyalist arguments for remaining loyal to Britain, one per index card.
3. Shuffle all 8 cards together, then sort them back into Patriot and Loyalist piles without looking at your notes, to test your own understanding.
4. Choose one card from each side and role-play a short debate, writing out both sides' 3-4 line exchange between a Patriot and Loyalist family member discussing whether to support the war.
5. Write which side you think had the stronger overall argument and defend your choice in 3-4 sentences using evidence from your cards.

QUESTIONS

1. Give one reason a colonist might have remained a Loyalist.
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2. Give one reason a colonist might have become a Patriot.
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3. About what fraction of colonists is generally estimated to have remained Loyalist?
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4. Which side's argument did you find stronger, and why?

