

Name _____

Date _____

Loyalist or Patriot?

In the years leading up to the American Revolution, people who thought the colonies should remain tied to England were called **Loyalists**. They were *loyal* to the king. People who wanted the colonies to split from England were called **Patriots**. Which side will you choose? Where you live and what you do for a living could affect your decision. You might also choose sides based on what you really think is right and best.

Directions: Imagine you are each of the following people. Will you choose the Patriot or the Loyalist side? Explain your reasons.

1. You are a newspaper editor and publisher in New York.
2. You are a customs official in Rhode Island.
3. You run a large indigo plantation in South Carolina.
4. You are a sail maker in New Bedford.
5. You are a housewife in Boston.
6. You are a clergyman in Virginia.
7. You are an attorney in Boston.
8. You are a settler on the western frontier of Pennsylvania.



Colonists tarring and feathering a colonial tax official

Extra Challenge: Choose to be one of the people above, or some other equally specific colonial role. With classmates, representing a good mix of Patriots and Loyalists, role-play a debate about splitting away from Great Britain. You can use your outlines and the readings from the *Voices* activities for background.

