

Whose Side Are You On?

The 1770's were a difficult time for many colonists. People argued passionately about the problems between England and the colonies, to the point where families broke up and friends no longer spoke.

For this assignment, please do the following:

- Read the descriptions of some 'typical' residents of the colonies below
- After reading this resident's description, use your resources to decide which of the laws passed by Britain (including the Proclamation of 1763 and all the events on the chart) might affect this person. Find at least THREE that apply!
- Decide if this person would be a Loyalist (on the side of the British) or a Patriot (favoring those who want to split from Britain)
- Complete each part of the graphic organizer thoroughly.

A few things to keep in mind:

- By the 1770's, many colonists had been born in the colonies, not in England
- On the other hand, many colonists still had relatives in England and felt more loyalty to England and their home colony than they did to the other colonies
- Men with higher education (lawyers, ministers, sometimes doctors) usually had to go to England to be educated at a university there
- Colonial officials, like governors and judges, were given their jobs by the King and only the King could fire them
- Merchants often relied on England as a prime market for trade, but did not like laws that limited what they could do
- It was easier in some ways to travel from England to the colonies by boat than it was to travel within the colonies over land
- Native Americans distrusted the English after the French and Indian War, but also distrusted the colonists who wanted their land

Samuel Cooper, 19

Sam is a former indentured servant to a furniture maker who is now working to become a master. He was born in the colonies, but his mother was born in England. He has had to work hard since he was nine years old just to get by. He cannot read and write very much beyond signing his name and writing up payments. He can make ends meet, but does not have a lot of extras. He makes elegant furniture that is too expensive for average people to own, and sells a lot of his work to wealthy merchants and English officials. Sam lives in Salem, Massachusetts, and has been hearing a lot about all the upheaval in Boston.

Jeremiah Blackburn, 42

Jeremiah is a Quaker living outside Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His family has been in the colonies for several generations. He owns a farm and a small print shop, both of which are doing well. In the French and Indian War, Jeremiah refused to join the local militia because his Quaker faith is pacifist (does not believe in violence). He is concerned about the Indian tribes on the western frontier of Pennsylvania who are angry about losing land to settlers because two of his sons moved out to western PA to set up farms of their own and hopes the British army will protect them.

Emily Watson, 27

Emily is the wife of a plantation owner in Virginia and the daughter of an Anglican (Church of England) minister from England. Because her father is very highly educated, she is quite well-educated for a woman and can read and write in English and a little French. She grew up in England but married a man who has never lived outside Virginia. She thinks of herself as very stylish and up-to-date, wearing the latest European fashions and discussing all the recent events in the courts of London. Her family's income relies on being able to sell tobacco and indigo in England and Europe. Her father is very concerned about the latest news from the colonies and urges Emily not to take sides against the King.

Nixkamich, Age Unknown

Nixkamich is a member of the Algonquin tribe, which has been displaced from their traditional lands near the Backcountry by the settlement of the New York colony. His age is unknown but his name means "Grandfather". During the French and Indian War, the French promised to restore the tribe's traditional territorial rights if Nixkamich's tribe would fight on their side. Now the British colonists have pushed onto their lands. Representatives of the British army have approached him, promising to honor the Algonquins' treaty with the French if the Algonquin will sign a loyalty oath not to fight against English troops.

Dr. Charles Randall, 35

Charles lives in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, which the British have appointed as the capital for the colony. His father invested the family's money in shipping and made a profit from the triangle trade that allowed Charles to go to university. Charles attended Harvard College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to study law, and he is now a judge in the colonial court system. Recently the captain of one of his father's ships was caught smuggling goods into Boston Harbor. Soldiers searched all of his father's ships, and all their goods were seized by the British crown. Charles had an older brother who fought for the British in the French and Indian War and was killed in the Battle of Quebec. He has two sons and is worried that the colonists can't win a war against the British military.