

# Birchtown Settlement Reading Questions

1. Define the following terms:

enslaved:

indentured servants:

municipality:

tensions:

possessions:

coexisted:

riot:

2. Who were the Black Loyalists?

3. How was Birchtown settled? Provide details.

4. In your opinion, what was the biggest cause of the Shelburne Race Riot of 1784?

5. Why did indentured servitude cause problems in Birchtown?

6. Thomas Peters is said to have gathered “signatures and markings.” What do you think markings are?

7. How was Freetown, Sierra Leone settled?

## True or False Questions

1. **True or False:** The Black Loyalists fought for the British during the American Revolutionary War in hopes of gaining their freedom.
2. **True or False:** The Book of Negroes was a historical document that recorded the names, birthdates, and ages of freed Black Loyalists.
3. **True or False:** All Black people who arrived in Nova Scotia after the American Revolution were immediately granted land.
4. **True or False:** Birchtown was named after Thomas Peters, a Black Loyalist leader.
5. **True or False:** In 1784, white Loyalists rioted against Black residents in Birchtown, destroying homes and attacking people.
6. **True or False:** The Shelburne Race Riots lasted for only one day before being stopped by the military.

7. **True or False:** Black Loyalists eventually received the same amount of land as white Loyalists in Nova Scotia.
8. **True or False:** Thomas Peters traveled to London to demand that the British government grant Black Loyalists the land they had been promised.
9. **True or False:** In 1792, over 1,200 Black Loyalists left Nova Scotia and resettled in Sierra Leone.
10. **True or False:** Birchtown was declared a National Historic Site by the Canadian government in 1959.

### **Short Answer Questions**

1. **Question:** What document recorded the names and details of freed Black Loyalists?
2. **Question:** What was the name of the general after whom Birchtown was named?
3. **Question:** What were the five main areas in Nova Scotia where Black Loyalists were settled?
4. **Question:** What event took place in 1784 where white Loyalists attacked Black residents, destroying homes and beating a Baptist minister?
5. **Question:** What was the name of the Black Loyalist leader who traveled to London to fight for land rights?
6. **Question:** Where did Black Loyalists resettle in 1792 after facing discrimination and land shortages in Nova Scotia?
7. **Question:** What industries became the main sources of work for Black people who remained in Birchtown?
8. **Question:** What year did Birchtown residents first build a schoolhouse?
9. **Question:** What was the name of the settlement in Sierra Leone that Black Loyalists helped establish?
10. **Question:** When was Birchtown declared a National Historic Site by the Canadian government?