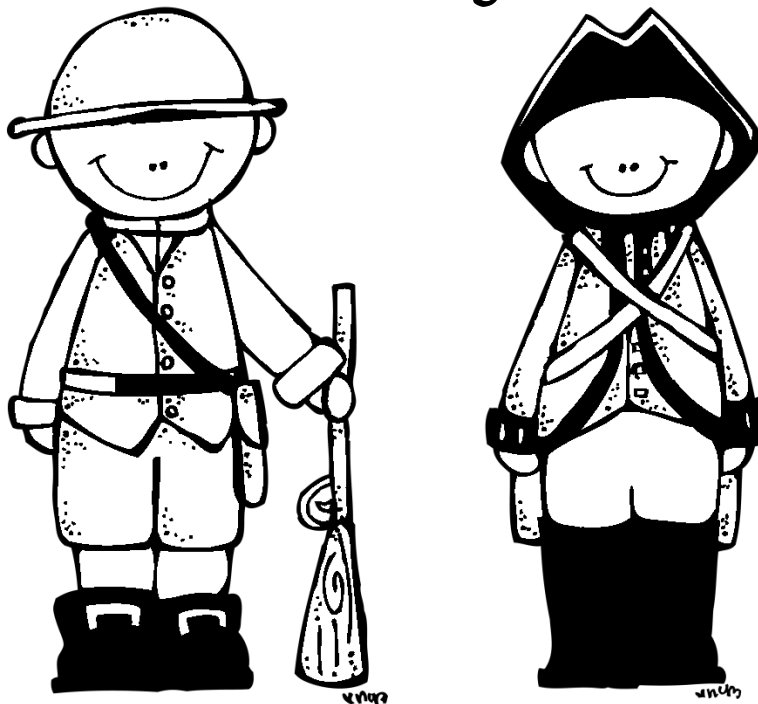




HISTORY DETECTIVES

An Informational Text Activity

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LOYALISTS VERSUS PATRIOTS

LOYALISTS

By Wise Guys



Introduction

Imagine living on a foreign land thousands of miles away from your homeland. You are obedient to the King of England in a time of upheaval in his majesty's royal colonies across the pond. You are about to be tested on your loyalty to the crown.

The Situation

Citizens of England began populating the thirteen colonies that were under British control in the mid to late 1600s. The colonies stretched from the present-day state of Maine all the way to Georgia. This vast expanse of the British Empire was a popular place for people to open businesses, establish farms, and start a new life. These British subjects remained loyal to the King of England and prospered from the protection of the most powerful army in the world. They were content and happy with their way of life in the colonies.

The Differences



When the King of England began imposing taxes on his loyal subjects in the colonies, change started to take place. Most colonists became upset by being forced to pay fees on everyday items such as newspapers and tea and not being able to have representation in the British government. Colonists, identified as Patriots, began to protest and single out the supporters of the crown, called Loyalists. These people, loyal to the King of England, made up about one-sixth of the population in the thirteen colonies. It may have been more if it weren't for the Patriots' public mockery of their position. Loyalists' homes were burned, lives were threatened, and many decided to leave the colonies as trouble mounted.

The Revolutionary War

When war started in the spring of 1775, being a Loyalist, or Tory, became extremely unpopular in the thirteen colonies. As Patriots took arms, Loyalists had to make the tough decision whether to fight for the crown, remain neutral, or flee the colonies. Staying in the colonies was dangerous. Now that the Patriots considered them enemies, their chances of remaining unscathed were minimal.

Realizing that freedom was paramount to African Americans, the King of England granted freedom to any enslaved African American if they could escape their Patriot master and join the British cause. Nearly 50,000 slaves (about one of every ten slaves in the colonies at the time) escaped. These African Americans also fled to either Canada or England to escape persecution.

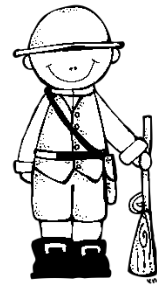
The Outcome

Because the Patriots won the Revolutionary War, a new nation was born when the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783. This new nation did not look upon loyalists favorably. The remaining loyalists in the colonies were treated as outcasts, tarred and feathered, and most fled to either Canada or back to England. They were no longer welcome in the new nation.



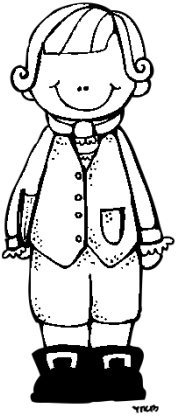
PATRIOTS

By Wise Guys



Introduction

As the thirteen colonies began to grow in the 1700s, changes started to occur that angered some colonists. These Patriots, or supporters of the new nation, set in motion events that would eventually lead to the formation of a new country.



The Situation

Taxation without representation was the rallying cry of the Patriots. As King George III tried to fill his coffers in England with new taxes on the colonists, he refused to let them have a say in how they were governed. Colonists appealed to the king to allow them to have representatives in order to voice their concerns over the new taxes on everyday items such as newspapers, glass, and even tea. As taxes were imposed, colonists began forming small groups, such as the Sons of Liberty, to protest the taxes. In the early going, some of the acts were repealed, or canceled. However, as time went on new taxes were introduced which infuriated the colonists.

The Differences

As more acts were imposed against the colonists, secret meetings were held by Patriots to discuss what could be done. One such famous incident was the Boston Tea Party in which Patriots, disguised as Mohawk Indians, dumped tea from a British ship into Boston Harbor. This angered King George III who enforced a strict curfew and regulations against the citizens of Boston. This news spread quickly, and other Patriots across the thirteen colonies began to rally in support of the Patriots in Boston. It would not be long before they would be fighting for their independence from England.

The Revolutionary War

When word spread that the British were marching to Concord and Lexington in Massachusetts to remove the weapons that were gathered there from the colonists, many local Patriots took arms and marched to Lexington green. A shot was fired, and the Revolutionary War began. At this time in history, England had the most powerful military in the world. But that did not deter the colonists. Though there were early battles lost, the courage of the Patriots began spreading across the colonies. As help came from France, the Patriots began winning crucial battles. In October of 1781 General Cornwallis, the leader of the British military, surrendered to George Washington, thus marking the last major battle in the war. In less than 10 years, the thirteen colonies went from complete British control, to control by a group of revolutionaries.



The Outcome

The colonial era had come to an end. Patriots began ridding the new America of Loyalists, or people still loyal to England. They wanted a new start on their own terms, and were not going to let anyone stand in their way. As bold as they started the first protests before the war, they would continue to fight for the freedom to govern in a new democracy.