



## NMMC at Home

MARINES IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

# LOYALIST OR PATRIOT?



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# Loyalist or Patriot?

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The materials included in this activity will supplement content on the American Revolution created by the Education Department on the National Museum of the Marine Corps website.

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# Objective and Instructions

## Age Range:

Our Loyalist or Patriot? activity is ideally suited for grades 6-8.

## Objective:

Use your knowledge of the Colonial era to discuss the rights and reasoning behind the decision of the American colonies to defy the King of England and declare Independence.

Use the cards provided to weigh the pros of and cons of each, and decide if each item is either a loyalist or patriot-leaning point. Based on the talking points and evidence you have discussed with your fellow students, you will decide if you will become a patriot or remain loyal to Britain.

## Instructions:

1. Cut out the discussion cards on pages 4-6 of this packet.
2. Depending on your class size, hand out a card to each student. One at a time, have each student read their card aloud. Everyone will ask themselves the following after each talking point is read aloud:
  - a. Is this a talking point for a British loyalist or a Colonial patriot?
  - b. What argument(s) could be made from the points of view of a British loyalist?
  - c. What argument(s) could be made from the points of view of a Colonial patriot?
3. Find the card information on the “Loyalist or Patriot Talking Points” page (page 7). Each talking point is assigned a number that will match on this page. There are a few talking points to use as a reference. Use any additional space to write your own thoughts.
4. After all of the cards are read aloud and discussed, everyone playing should decide, based on the information from the game, if they will remain a British loyalist or become a Colonial patriot.

## Materials:

- *Loyalist or Patriot Packet*
- *Pen or Pencil*
- *Scissors*



# Discussion Cards

## Directions:

Cut out the discussion cards with a pair of scissors. Pass a card out to each player. Depending on the number playing, players may have multiple cards. Write your discussion answers down on the “Loyalist or Patriot Talking Points” page. Finally, decide whether you will remain a loyalist or become a patriot.

### Talking Point #1

**A strong unified British Empire is good for all.**

### Talking Point #2

**Colonists are British subjects and should obey British law.**

### Talking Point #3

**Taxes are due to pay for the French and Indian War, which was fought to protect the colonies.**

### Talking Point #4

**American colonies would be weak without Britain.**

### Talking Point #5

**Colonies profit from trade with England.**

### Talking Point #6

**Colonies are too far away from England to have representation in Parliament, it's just not practical.**

# Discussion Cards

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## Talking Point #7

**Taxation takes away property from citizens, such as money and goods. People have rights to not have their government take property away.**

## Talking Point #8

**Colonists don't have a voice in Parliament, so England shouldn't tax colonies—No taxation without representation.**

## Talking Point #9

**There is no way colonies could ever be represented in Parliament because it is too far away.**

## Talking Point #10

**Many colonists fought in the French and Indian War, they have done their part for the British Empire.**

## Talking Point #11

**British personnel are causing violence, riots, and death (Boston Massacre and Boston Tea Party).**

## Talking Point #12

**The quartering of British troops is wrong.**

# Discussion Cards

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## Talking Point #13

**The strong British Army and Navy can protect the colonies.**

## Talking Point #14

**Creating our own government allows us to make our own laws and decide important topics like religious freedoms.**

## Talking Point #15

**Having independence means the freedom to trade with any nation, not just the British Empire.**

# Talking Points

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## Directions:

Find your corresponding card to the talking points below and write any additional information you have for each. In the end, decide if you want to remain loyal to Britain or become a Colonial patriot.

### **Talking Point #1: A strong unified British Empire is good for all.**

**Argument 1:** Being a part of the British empire, despite taxes, provides goods and services to the colonies, including military protection.

**Argument 2:** Having a strong unified empire allows for better standing amongst all of the strong European nations.

**Additional:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Is this a Loyalist or Patriot argument?:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Talking Point #2: Colonist are British subjects and should obey British law.**

**Argument 1:** The colonists wouldn't be in the Americas without the British funding travel/initial colonization costs.

**Argument 2:** The colonies are extensions of Britain so they should be subject to British law.

**Additional:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Is this a Loyalist or Patriot argument?:** \_\_\_\_\_



# Talking Points

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## **Talking Point #3: Taxes are due to pay for the French and Indian War, which was fought to protect the colonies.**

**Argument 1:** Since the colonies are members of the British Empire, it is only logical that they pay taxes to help make up for the losses.

**Argument 2:** The colonists themselves helped fight in the war so it should be no surprise that they should also be taxed.

**Additional:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Is this a Loyalist or Patriot argument?:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Talking Point #4: American colonies would be weak without Britain.**

**Argument 1:** The founding of the colonies was funded by Britain.

**Argument 2:** British military forces are what partially keep the colonies safe.

**Additional:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Is this a Loyalist or Patriot argument?:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Talking Point #5: Colonies profit from trade with England.**

**Argument 1:** If the colonies were not part of the British Empire, they would have trouble trading/negotiating with other countries, including Britain.

**Argument 2:** England is more favorable in trading with the colonies since they are part of the empire.

**Additional:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Is this a Loyalist or Patriot argument?:** \_\_\_\_\_



# Talking Points

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## **Talking Point #6: Colonies are too far away from England to have representation in Parliament, it's just not practical.**

**Argument 1:** The distance not only makes travel difficult: It makes conveying what the colonists want and what laws are made very difficult.

**Argument 2:** The needs of the colonists could rapidly change and the time for the changes to make it to Parliament is too long.

**Additional:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Is this a Loyalist or Patriot argument?:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Talking Point #7: Taxation takes away property from citizens, such as money and goods. People have rights to not have their government take property away.**

**Argument 1:** While taxation is an inherent part of government, it should be going directly back to the people that are taxed. Taxation on colonists is going to the British Empire, not the colonies.

**Argument 2:** Citizens do not even have a way of saying what should and should not be taken away via taxation.

**Additional:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Is this a Loyalist or Patriot argument?:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Talking Points

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## **Talking Point #8: Colonists don't have a voice in Parliament, so England shouldn't tax colonies—No taxation without representation.**

**Argument 1:** Taxation directly affects the lives of people that the taxes are applied to: It is only natural that those people should be able to voice their concerns or input.

**Argument 2:** The British do not live in the colonies and cannot know how taxes will impact them without seeing what is happening firsthand.

**Additional:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Is this a Loyalist or Patriot argument?:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Talking Point #9: There is no way colonies could ever be represented in Parliament because it is too far away.**

**Argument 1:** Are the colonial colonies of Britain being taxed equally, or are the American colonies a special case?

**Argument 2:** The law and its representation has no geographical boundary.

**Additional:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Is this a Loyalist or Patriot argument?:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Talking Points

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## **Talking Point #10: Many colonists fought in the French and Indian War, they have done their part for the British Empire.**

**Argument 1:** By fighting for the empire, colonists have shown their desire to be a part of the empire.

**Argument 2:** Given the casualties, it would be a waste to leave the empire and lose the benefits of Britain “winning.”

**Additional:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Is this a Loyalist or Patriot argument?:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Talking Point #11: British personnel are causing violence, riots, and death (Boston Massacre and Boston Tea Party).**

**Argument 1:** Why should people that aren't even fully living in the colonies be allowed to hurt those that are?

**Argument 2:** There is a clear divide in the actions and interests of colonists and British personnel.

**Additional:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Is this a Loyalist or Patriot argument?:** \_\_\_\_\_



# Talking Points

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## Talking Point #12: The quartering of British troops is wrong.

**Argument 1:** Colonists should not be dragged into British military action that does not involve them.

**Argument 2:** British troops are already causing issues in the colonies: quartering them only increases the potential for more trouble.

**Additional:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Is this a Loyalist or Patriot argument?:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Talking Point #13: The strong British Army and Navy can protect the colonies.

**Argument 1:** The colonies do not have their own army or navy that is on the same scale as the British Empire's.

**Argument 2:** The British Empire has a proven history of success in warfare.

**Additional:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Is this a Loyalist or Patriot argument?:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Talking Points

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## **Talking Point #14: Creating our own government allows us to make our own laws and decide important topics like religious freedoms.**

*Argument 1:* The colonists actually living in the colonies should be allowed to make laws/governmental decisions since they are the ones living through the environment.

*Argument 2:* The creation of a new government would actually allow for taxation with representation as opposed to without it.

*Additional:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Is this a Loyalist or Patriot argument?: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Talking Point #15: Having independence means the freedom to trade with any nation, not just the British Empire.**

*Argument 1:* The colonies would be able to negotiate with any nation, not just nations affiliated with the British Empire or on good terms with them.

*Argument 2:* More trading partners means more variety and a better economy.

*Additional:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Is this a Loyalist or Patriot argument?: \_\_\_\_\_