



Primary Source Lesson Plan-Patriots and Tories

Name of Primary Source

Patriots and Tories: Excerpts from Their Letters and Journals

How primary source ties into text

Qualifies: Letters from various Patriots and Tories written from 1774-1777.

Elaborates: Gives detailed points of view from each side.

Raises questions: This primary source can be used to question the students on the idea that points of view sometimes consist mainly of opinions and include very few facts.

Corresponding Lesson

This lesson ties into Chapter 11 in the America's Past Textbook. It would be good to use it during a guided or shared reading lesson sometime that week or in the weeks that follow.

Colorado Standards

- Social Studies Standard 1 History: History develops moral understanding, defines identity, and creates and appreciation of how things change while building skills in judgment and decision making. History enhances the ability to read varied sources and develop the skills to analyze, interpret, and communicate.
Grade level expectation: analyze historical sources from multiple points of view to develop an understanding of historical context.
- Analyze historical sources from multiple points of view to develop an understanding of historical context
- Reading and Writing 1: Read and understand a variety of materials
- Reading and Writing 3: Write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling

Big Idea

The big historical idea is that Americans were divided over whether they should fight for independence from Britain. (Hence: Tories or Loyalists and Patriots.)

For reading comprehension, focus on opinions or points of view. There are few objective facts in the entire set of sources. The selections were chosen because they represent different and quite heated points of view.

By this time, the students should understand the Patriots' point of view—no taxation by Parliament, the Intolerable Acts were unfair, etc. So the selection introduces only the Tory point of view, which they likely have not heard yet.

Critical thinking

Why did some Americans oppose independence from Britain?" "To what extent did Patriots and Tories respect the other's point of view? Why did they or didn't they?"

Mini-Lesson

Teaching

Begin by reading through the source as a shared reading. Discuss that a **fact** is something that is true or can be proven. An **opinion** is your feelings or how someone else feels about a particular topic.

Active Engagement

Students will have to complete the fact and opinion worksheet attached. They will find at least 2 facts and two opinions for each point of view.

Extension Activity

After analyzing the excerpts for fact and opinion, ask students to focus on how Patriot and Tory opinions and attitudes were similar and different? Consider the following and they must find evidence in the primary sources for their conclusions:

- Respect for traditional ways
- Openness to new ideas
- Willingness to compromise
- Respect for the rights of others
- Trust in the loyalty of others

Based on that evidence, which kind of person would they feel most comfortable having as part of their community?

“Patriots and Tories: Excerpts from their Letters and Journals”

TORY POINTS OF VIEW

Why Risk Independence?

Depend upon it, you can never place yourselves in a happier situation than in your ancient constitutional dependency on Great Britain. No independent state ever was or ever can be so happy as we have been, and might still be, under that government...

But remember, Gentlemen, that I now tell you, that should they [the patriots] (contrary to all probability) accomplish their [harmful] purpose, yet their government will not be lasting. It will never suit a people who have once tasted the sweets of British liberty under a British constitution.

Governor William Franklin's letter to the New Jersey Legislature, 1776.

One King or Many?

As long as government subsists [exists], subjects owe... obedience to the laws of the supreme power, from which there can be no appeal but to Heaven... To what, or whom, shall we [turn to]? Shall we appeal to the King of Massachusetts Bay, to the King of Connecticut, to the King of Rhode Island, against the King of Great Britain?...

Letter from a Virginian to the Continental Congress, 1774

Trust the Mother Country

...It can hardly be imagined, that the mother country has formed the least intention of reducing these provinces [colonies] to a state of abject servility [slavery], by the force of arms... She will be more just - more tender to her offspring - the force of reason will prevail - our grievances will be redressed [satisfied] - and she will be found to the end of time, a kind - a fostering parent!

Letter of William Eddis of Maryland, Feb 14, 1775

WHAT PATRIOTS THOUGHT OF TORIES

All Tories are Cowards

... What is a Tory? Good God! What is he? I should not be afraid to go with a hundred Whigs [Patriots] against a thousand Tories, were they to attempt to get into arms. Every Tory is a coward; for servile, slavish, self-interested fear is

the foundation of Toryism; and a man under such influence, though he may be cruel, can never be brave.

Thomas Paine, 1775

Tories are a Threat

Rouse, American! [sic] Your danger is great - great from a quarter where you least expect it. The Tories, the Tories will yet be the ruin of you!... Who were the [cause] of this war? The Tories! Who persuaded the tyrant of Britain to [wage war] in a manner before unknown to civilized nation, and shocking even to barbarians? The Tories! Who prevailed on the [Indians] to join the [troops] of the enemy? The Tories!

Letter from William Hooper to Robert Morris, Feb. 1, 1777

HOW PATRIOTS TREATED THE TORIES

A Tory Preacher

... For my telling the church people not to take up arms... the Sons of Liberty have almost killed one of my church, tarred and feathered two, abused others; and on the sixth day destroyed my windows, and [tore] my clothes... the Lord deliver us from anarchy.

Letter of Reverend Samuel Peters of Connecticut, 1774

Tarred and Feathered

The most shocking cruelty was exercised a few nights ago, upon a poor old man... Malcolm... He was stripped stark naked, one [sic] of the severest cold nights this winter, his body covered all over with tar, was dragged in a cart, with thousands [watching], some beating him with clubs and knocking him out of the cart, then in again. They gave him several severe whippings, at different parts of the town. This [parade] of horror and sportive cruelty was exhibited for about five hours.

Letter of Ann Hulton from Boston, 1774

WHAT TORIES THOUGHT OF PATRIOTS

A Drunken Rabble

This [Patriot] army... is truly nothing but a drunken, [pleading], lying, praying, hypocritical rabble, without order... discipline or cleanliness; and must fall to

pieces of itself in the course of three months, [regardless of] every [attempt] of their leaders, teachers, and preachers.

Letter of a loyalist doctor, May 1775

View of General George Washington

News that our [British] army has surprised Washington and taken him prisoner. Afraid it is too got [sic] to be [true]. ...Washington is certainly a most surprising man... That a Negro-driver [slave owner] should, with a ragged [gang] of undisciplined people, scum and refuse of all nations on earth, so long keep a British general at bay... is astonishing. It is too much. By heavens, there must be double-dealing somewhere.

Nicholas Cresswell's journal, 1774

Name: _____

Date: _____

Fact and Opinion

Patriots and Tories

Write two facts and two opinions from each point of view.

PATRIOTS

FACTS

OPINION

TORIES

FACTS

OPINION
