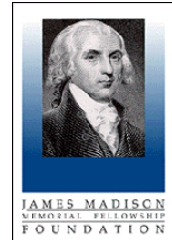


Constitutional Conversations Study Guide

Loyalists in the American Revolution (6:15)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBoHZx9WmNY>



Summary

This short video clarifies the role played by Loyalists throughout the American Revolution. Never more than 1/5 of the population, the political and military influence of the Loyalists varied both chronologically and geographically.

Professor Jack Rakove highlights the efforts of British forces in the Southern colonies to enlist Loyalists in hopes of “pacifying” the countryside, but concludes that there were too few Loyalists for this strategy to succeed.

Courses appropriate for this segment: Early American History

Grade level: 8th grade

RECALL QUESTIONS

1. How did John Adams divide Americans during the American Revolution?
2. What other name were the Loyalists known by? What other name were the Patriots known by?
3. For what reasons did the British feel their Southern campaign would be successful?

CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS

1. What would have made the British strategy in the South more successful?
2. Would the Southern campaign have been more successful if the French had not gotten involved in the conflict?

ASSESSMENT OR ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Students may write a letter as a Loyalist to a Patriot friend explaining his/her position during the American Revolution.

ANSWERS FOR RECALL QUESTIONS ANSWERS

1. One third Patriot, one third Loyalist, one third didn't care
2. Tories. Whigs.
3. Long distances, slaves & ethnic communities who supported the British.

SUGGESTED ANSWERS FOR CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS

1. There needed to be a greater number of Loyalists. The British needed to have started the Southern campaign earlier, before people were becoming war-weary. Promising slaves their freedom also turned whites who may have been supportive of Britain away.
2. Various answers as this is conjecture. May argue that more people would have joined the Loyalist side in order to be on the winning side of the war.

CLASSROOM STRATEGIES

1. Give the student a variety of websites about the impact of the Loyalists upon Canadian history. Have students focus on locations of settlement, numbers, and contributions to Canadian society.
2. Split the class into small groups of 3 to 5 students. Give each group a primary source about the Loyalists. Students must read, identify from which perspective the source is written (Loyalist or Patriot), and summarize the content of the source

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