

Lesson 10: Patriots, Loyalists, and America's First Big Divide

Teacher Version

Essential Question

Why did American Patriots believe independence from Britain was necessary?

Lesson Bridge

Review Lesson 9:

- Bill of Rights and Individual Freedom
- Why did Americans demand a Bill of Rights?

Bridge Question:

- What would happen if people believed their government no longer protected their rights?

Hook Question

What would make people risk everything to break away from their government?

Key Vocabulary

Introduce and clarify the following terms:

- Patriots
- Loyalists
- Neutrals
- Natural Rights
- Consent of the Governed
- Tyranny

Reading and Text Coding

P = Patriot Ideas

B = British Actions

I = Important Information

- Teacher Modeling—I Do
- Guided Practice—We Do
- Independent Practice—You Do

Directed Note-Taking Graphic Organizer

Concern	Evidence (paragraph #)	What this shows about Patriot beliefs
Natural rights being violated		
Lack of consent/representation		
Fear of tyranny		
Desire for self-government		

Video Segment (10 minutes)

Video: [Samuel Adams](#)

Teacher Prompt: “We’ve read about the political ideas that influenced many Patriots during the Revolution. Now we’re going to ‘meet’ one of the strongest Patriot voices: Samuel Adams. Samuel Adams believed Britain was threatening colonial liberty and turning into a tyranny. As you listen to his biography and watch the video, think about the actions he took and why he believed resistance was necessary.”

Note: The video helps students connect emotionally and personally to Samuel Adams. The text remains the primary source for understanding Patriot political philosophy.

Video Segment (10 minutes)...cont'd

- ***Students complete Handout #4 while watching.***
- ***Teacher prompts (after video):***
 - “What risks did Samuel Adams take?”
 - “Why do you think he believed resistance was necessary?”
 - “How did he try to persuade other colonists?”
 - “What made him a Patriot?”

Interpretive Discussion

- ***Teacher Prompt:*** “Why did Patriots believe independence was necessary?”
- ***Students discuss:***
 - Were Patriots mainly reacting to taxes?
 - Or were they reacting to deeper ideas about rights and government?
 - What makes a government legitimate?
 - When do people believe government power has gone too far?

Interpretive Discussion...cont'd

- ***Teacher Prompt (after students talk):*** “Patriots believed government only works fairly when it protects rights and has the consent of the people. They believed Britain had broken that agreement.”

Debate: Was the fight for American independence justified? (10-12 minutes)

Patriot Concerns:

Natural rights being violated

Lack of representation/consent

Fear of tyranny

Desire for self-government

Debate: Was the fight for American independence justified? (10-12 minutes)...cont'd

The Debate Question

Which concern best explains why Patriots supported independence?

Debate Directions

Choose one concern and explain how it best explains Patriot support for independence. Use at least one piece of evidence from the text or video.

Final Writing Prompt

Revolutionary Writers Essay: Samuel Adams

*Samuel Adams showed great courage and determination as a Patriot.
Describe two ways he stood up for what he believed in and explain why these actions made him a Patriot.
Explain your answer using details from the text and the video.*

Students should write a paragraph that:

- describe two actions Samuel Adams took
- explain what Samuel Adams believed
- explain why Patriots believed resistance was necessary
- use evidence from the text and video

Final Writing Prompt...cont'd

Important: This essay is the primary assessment for Lesson 10 and also serves as one of nine potential student essays for the FIREWORKS250 Revolutionary Writers Essay Competition for students with teachers participating in cohort 2. Participating teachers should save all student essays. Students will select their best essay at the end of the year to submit for the competition.

Closure (5 minutes)

- ***Teacher prompt:*** “Today we learned that the American Revolution was not only about taxes or anger. Many Patriots believed Britain had violated important principles about rights, representation, and self-government.”
- ***Turn-and-Talk:*** “Which Patriot idea do you think mattered most—and why?”
- ***Exit Ticket:*** “What belief most strongly pushed Patriots toward independence?”