

Lesson 11: Loyalists and the American Revolution

Teacher Version

Essential Question

Why did some colonists choose to remain loyal to Britain during the American Revolution?

Lesson Bridge

Review Lesson 10:

- Patriot Political Philosophy
- Why did Patriots believe independence from Britain was necessary?

Bridge Question:

- How might two people living in the same place, or even in the same family, reach different conclusions about independence?

Hook Question

What would make someone stay loyal to a government when many of their neighbors wanted to break away from it?

Key Vocabulary

Introduce and clarify the following terms:

- Loyalists
- Patriots
- Neutrals
- Stability
- Independence
- Revolution

Reading and Text Coding

L = Loyalist Beliefs

P = Patriot Arguments

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 Loyalist beliefs
Disloyalty to existing government		
Disruption to economic stability and trade		
Fear of chaos and violence		
Personal circumstances and connections		

Video Segment (10 minutes)

Video: [Thomas Lynch Jr.](#)

Teacher Prompt: “In the last lesson, we met Samuel Adams, a Patriot leader. Today we'll compare two men who made very different choices during the American Revolution: Thomas Lynch Jr. and William Franklin. As you listen to the biography of Thomas Lynch Jr. and watch the video, think about why two father and son pairs living in the same time period might reach very different conclusions. Both Thomas Lynch Jr. and his father were Patriots, but the Franklin father and son pair chose opposite sides, with Benjamin Franklin choosing to be a Patriot and his son, William, choosing to be a Loyalist.”

Note: The video may help students connect emotionally and personally to Thomas Lynch Jr. and the choice he made in becoming a Patriot like his father. The text remains the primary source for understanding Loyalist political philosophy.

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

- ***Students complete Handout #4 while watching.***
- ***Teacher prompts (after video):***
 - “What influenced Thomas Lynch Jr.’s decision?”
 - “What influenced William Franklin’s decision?”
 - “How did their careers affect their choices?”
 - “What risks did each man face?”

Interpretive Discussion

- ***Teacher Prompt:*** “Why did some colonists remain loyal to Britain?”
- ***Students discuss:***
 - Were Loyalists simply afraid of change?
 - What benefits did Britain provide?
 - Why might revolution seem risky?
 - Can people disagree while still wanting what is best for their country?

Interpretive Discussion...cont'd

- ***Teacher Prompt (after students talk):*** “Many Loyalists believed Britain provided stability, protection, and opportunity. They worried that independence could create uncertainty and conflict.”

Debate: Why did the Loyalists continue to support Britain? (10-12 minutes)

Loyalist Concerns:

Disloyalty to existing government

Disruption to economic stability and trade

Fear of chaos and violence

Personal circumstances and connections

Debate: Why did Loyalists continue to support Britain? (10-12 minutes)...cont'd

The Debate Question

Which concern best explains why many Loyalists remained loyal to Britain?

Debate Directions

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

Final Writing Prompt

Revolutionary Writers Essay: Thomas Lynch Jr. and William Franklin

If you were living in 1776, would you have chosen to stay loyal like William Franklin or become a Patriot like Thomas Lynch Jr.? Explain your choice and how their different jobs and family situations influenced their decisions. Explain your answer using details from the text and the video.

Students should write a paragraph that:

- explains which perspective they would have supported
- describes Thomas Lynch Jr.'s perspective
- describes William Franklin's perspective
- Explains how family, career, and beliefs influenced each man
- use evidence from the text and video

Final Writing Prompt...cont'd

Important: This essay is the primary assessment for Lesson 11 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 not all colonists agreed about independence. Patriots and Loyalists looked at many of the same events but reached different conclusions, even within families.”
- **Turn-and-Talk:** “Which Loyalist concern do you think was most understandable—and why?”
- **Exit Ticket:** “What was the strongest reason some colonists remained loyal to Britain?”