

Patriots vs. Loyalists Role-Play (15 minutes)

SET THE SCENE (5 minutes)

Teacher: You are living in South Carolina in 1780 near a place like Thicketty Fort. The colonies are deciding whether to stay with the king or become independent. You must choose: Patriot or Loyalist—and be ready to defend your position.

Split the class:

- Half = Patriots (want independence)
- Half = Loyalists (stay with Britain)
- Optional to allow a few students to be “undecided colonists”

Give cards to students. Duplicate them as needed to make sure everyone has a card, or group students together. [Patriots vs. Loyalists Speaking Cards.pdf](#)

DEBATE (5 minutes)

Have students use their cards to share out.

- “I am a Patriot because...”
- “I am a Loyalist because...”

REFLECTION (5 minutes)

- “Why didn’t everyone agree?”
- “How would this cause problems between neighbors?”

Connect back to seeing Thicketty Fort exhibit:

The people at Thicketty Fort made these same kinds of choices—and it affected what happened there.

Exit Ticket: Would you be a Patriot or Loyalist? Explain why.

Optional Extension: How is this similar to disagreements people have today?