

PATRIOT, LOYALIST, OR NEUTRAL? YOU DECIDE! – ANSWER KEY

Cut the scenarios into strips so that each pair of students receives one of the colonist scenarios. Tell students to read the scenario with their partner and determine what type of colonist this might be. Students should write a reason for their choice.

Colonist A

Colonist A is a poor farmer in the Hudson Valley of New York. Colonist A has paid no attention to the trouble brewing in the colonies. His day-to-day struggle to maintain his farm and family is what worries him. His problems have recently become worse; his landowner, a Loyalist, has had some financial troubles and to get himself out of his enormous debts, his landowner raised Colonist A's rent three times in the last five months. Colonist A barely earns enough from selling his crops to pay the original rent amount and now with the raise in the rent, Colonist A will be evicted from his farm. He and his wife have six children and fear they will have nowhere to go if they are forced to leave the farm.

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Patriot

☐

Loyalist

☐

Neutral

Reason for Decision:

Colonist B

Colonist B is a wealthy woman from New York City. Her husband's business earns tremendous wealth and honor for the family. She frequently claims to be related to several members of the House of Lords in the British Parliament. She worries about the amount of violence being committed by mobs of men called the Sons of Liberty. She and her husband fear that their wealth and their connections to Britain may cause them to be targets of the mob.

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Patriot

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Loyalist

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Neutral

Reason for Decision:

Colonist C

Colonist C is a wealthy tea merchant in Boston. Colonist C's goal in life is to make money and he doesn't care if he violates the law. Since the Townshend Acts placed a tax on tea, Colonist C has been illegally importing tea from the Dutch. His ships frequently have to hide from the British navy and British customs officials who can board his ships whenever they please. Recently he was caught smuggling in tea, but fortunately he was able to buy off the official with a large sum of money. Friends have informed Colonist C that the Royal Governor of Massachusetts has issued an arrest warrant for Colonist C, and friends advise him to go into hiding.

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Patriot

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Loyalist

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Neutral

Reason for Decision:

Colonist D

Colonist D is a merchant from rural Virginia. He follows the British laws and sells all of his goods, mainly tobacco to the British. Colonist D's lifestyle is extravagant and spends large amounts of his money purchasing the finest clothes and furnishings from Europe. As a young boy, his father sent him to study in Britain and he hopes that next year, he too will send his son to Britain, the only place in his mind one can get a decent education. Due to his rich lifestyle, Colonist D is in heavy debt with several British banks. He fears that the people he owes money to will foreclose his property.

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Patriot

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Loyalist

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Neutral

Reason for Decision:

Colonist E

Colonist E is originally from Germany and lives on the Pennsylvania Frontier. Colonist E decided to move his family out of the Pennsylvania colony into the fertile Ohio Valley. He plans to move near a British fort in the Ohio Valley, which can provide protection from Indians. As Colonist E and his family moved towards the Ohio Valley, British soldiers stopped him and informed him that the Proclamation of 1763 prohibits him from moving into the Ohio Valley.

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Patriot

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Loyalist

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Neutral

Reason for Decision:

Colonist F

Colonist F is a merchant in New York City. His business imports many products from Europe, especially Britain. Colonist F has secretly grown concerned over the recent talk of independence from Britain. He fears an independent America could not protect his ships at sea; the British navy escorts colonial ships as they cross the Atlantic to protect the ships from pirates or foreign ships wanting to steal goods. Since the Townshend Acts, the Sons of Liberty have been bullying storeowners into removing British goods from their shelves. A store owner friend of his was badly beaten up by a mob of Sons of Liberty for selling British products. Since hearing of his friend's attack, Colonist F has participated with the boycotts.

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Patriot

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Loyalist

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Neutral

Reason for Decision:

Colonist G

Colonist G lives close to Boston's waterfront. He has very little money and cares little about politics. He works on docks loading and unloading the ships and at night he hangs out and plays cards in one of the many taverns along the waterfront. He has been known to spend a few nights in jail after fighting in the taverns. His toughness has caught the eye of the Sons of Liberty and for months they have been trying to recruit him. Colonist G accepted their rum and ale but refused to join the Sons of Liberty. Yesterday, Colonists G was informed that he was out of a job because the British passed a series of acts called the Intolerable Acts, which closed Boston Harbor to trade.

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Patriot

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Loyalist

☐

Neutral

Reason for Decision:

Colonist H

Colonist H owns a tobacco plantation and is also a lawyer in the Virginia colony. Often colonists are paid in pounds of tobacco for their wages—usually two pennies per pound of tobacco. Virginia has a harsh winter that makes tobacco crops scarce. The British government raises the pound price of tobacco against the wishes of the Virginia [colony] House of Burgesses. Some ministers in the colony wish to be paid their wages in this higher tobacco price. Colonist H is opposed to this and makes a speech in the House of Burgesses against the unfairness of the higher price of tobacco imposed by the king.

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Patriot

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Loyalist

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Neutral

Reason for Decision: