

Lesson: America's First Veterans

Grades 4/5

Subject Area: Social Studies, Opinion Writing, Reading

Learning objectives: Students will be able to explain why individuals on opposing sides of the American Revolution differed in their perspectives; create a political cartoon representing one of the opposing sides: patriot or loyalist.

SFPS Priority Standards:

H.4.24

Explain why various individuals and groups during the same historical period differed in their perspectives towards significant historical events.

W.5.1

Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

Introduce vocabulary: **taxation, revolution, loyalist, patriot**

Lesson: Explain why governments collect taxes and how they are used. Share examples of how taxation benefits their own lives today– building roads, bridges, and subways; providing free public education; and funding social safety and defense programs (police, army, etc.).

Students will view a short video on the background of the American Revolution:
<https://kcts9.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/ush22-soc-revolutioncauses/causes-of-the-american-revolution-interactive-timeline/>

Use the National Archives website to share a political cartoon from the era.
<https://docsteach.org/activities/teacher/political-cartoon-analysis-no-taxation-without-representation>

Ask students: Would you have chosen to be a loyalist or a patriot during the American Revolution? Think of how you could persuade others to join your side with a political cartoon.

Partners or small groups will create a cartoon that demonstrates the opinion of either a loyalist or patriot during the years leading up to the American Revolution.

Your comic may have up to 3 panels and include a short text description. Be sure to include historically accurate reasons for your opinion.

Guiding questions:

Why do you choose to side with the Loyalists/Patriots?

Why and how would your side of the conflict be better for the country?

Would our lives be different today if the American Revolution had a different outcome?

Assessment: Proficiency at level 3

Students' cartoons depict an opinion of either a loyalist or patriot. The written description includes 2 or more factual reasons that support their stance.