

## **Patriots versus Loyalists Timeline**

### *The Seeds of War*

1765 March 22 – British Parliament passed the Stamp Act, which placed a tax on many paper items in the American colonies, including legal documents and newspapers. The Stamp Act and similar taxations that followed were to pay for the £130 million of debt in England that had been caused by the French and Indian War.

October – The Stamp Act Congress was held in New York City and was made up of delegates from many of the American colonies in order to find a way to protest the Stamp Act.

1766 March 18 – Parliament removed the Stamp Act because it was unpopular among British merchants, manufacturers and American colonists. Parliament simultaneously passed the Declaratory Act, allowing taxes to be placed on the colonists without giving colonists representation in Parliament.

1767 June 29 – King George III approved the Townsend Acts, which taxed items that were imported to the American colonies such as paper, paint, glass and tea.

1768 February – The slogan “No Taxation without Representation” was adopted by the American colonists. They believed that any taxation on the colonists made by British Parliament without a vote from the colonists taken into consideration was against the English Bill of Rights, which stated that any taxation on a British citizen without representation in Parliament was illegal.

1770 March 5 – British soldiers killed five and wounded six men in an incident known as the Boston Massacre.

1773 May – British Parliament passed an act that allowed the East India Company to have a monopoly over the tea trade in the colonies.

December 16 – A political protest known as the Boston Tea Party was made by a group called the Sons of Liberty who were dressed as Native Americans. They destroyed 342 chests of tea brought in by the East India Company by throwing the chests into Boston Harbor.

1774 May – British Parliament passed the Massachusetts Government Act, which gave British governors in the American colonies the power to enforce martial law.

September – The First Continental Congress met in Philadelphia with delegates from every state except Georgia and passed the Articles of Association.

## ***The War Begins***

1775 April 19 – The Battles of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts marked the start of the American Revolutionary War.

**April – The town of Greenwich sent volunteer troops and supplies to defend New York City against the British military.**

June 15 – The Continental Congress appointed George Washington as commander of the Continental Army.

June 17 – The Battle of Bunker Hill was won by the British.

**December – The town of Greenwich elected the Committee of Safety and Inspection to ensure that citizens obeyed the Articles of Association.**

1776 January – Thomas Paine wrote *Common Sense*, a popular publication that called for American independence from Britain.

January – General Washington set up winter headquarters in Morristown, New Jersey in order to watch the movements of the British troops that had taken over New York City.

March 17 – In the Siege of Boston, General George Washington's troops surrounded the city for 11 months and finally forced the British soldiers that occupied it to retreat on ships to Canada.

June 12 – The Continental Congress drafted the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union as the first attempt at an American Constitution.

July 4 – The Continental Congress met and voted to adopt the Declaration of Independence which was signed one month later.

**August – At a town meeting in Greenwich, Connecticut, local representatives unanimously supported the Declaration of Independence.**

August – General Washington moved his troops to Manhattan to fortify the port in New York City but lost the Battle of Long Island to the British.

**October 23 – General Washington retreated with his men to North White Plains, New York from the British troops in New York City. There he established his headquarters at the Elijah Miller House. Five days later, British General William Howe marched his forces toward White Plains and forced General Washington's men to retreat farther north.**

September 15 – The British landed military ships in the East River in New York City; this is now known as the Landing at Kip's Bay.

- 1776 December 25 – General Washington and his troops crossed the icy waters of the Delaware River from New Jersey into Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which was occupied by the British Army. The next morning General Washington led an attack on the British troops, seized much-needed supplies and captured 1,000 prisoners.
- 1777 **March – The Connecticut Committee of Safety and Inspection sent Colonel Joshua Porter to the Salisbury Cannon and Iron Foundry in northwestern Connecticut to have cannons made for the Continental Army. The Salisbury Foundry continued to supply the Continental Army with cannons for the remainder of the war.**
- 1778 **January – Greenwich, Connecticut held a town meeting to prevent Loyalists from crossing town lines and destroying land owned by Patriots.**
- February – The Treaty of Alliance was signed by delegates from France and the Continental Congress. It promised that France would help defend the Americans against British attack.
- 1779 **February 26 – British Major General William Tryon raided the town of Greenwich, Connecticut. Farms and homes were ransacked and destroyed and the town was taken over by Loyalists. General Israel Putnam found out about the raids and traveled up to Stamford to get military aid but returned after General Tryon and his troops had already retreated.**
- 1780 **May – Most of Greenwich, Connecticut, was under siege by the British and the town was without provisions for the local people.**
- November – Governor Trumbull sent 1,000 troops to Greenwich, Connecticut as requested by American General Gold Selleck Silliman, in order to create a defense against the Loyalists and British soldiers who were terrorizing the Patriot families who lived there.**

*The end is near*

- 1781 The Continental Congress voted to ratify the Articles of Confederation as the first Constitution of the United States.
- October 19 – General Washington’s men met French naval ships in Chesapeake Bay, Maryland. These combined forces defeated British General Charles Cornwallis and broke his hold on Yorktown, Virginia. General Cornwallis surrendered, which ended fighting in the United States of America.
- 1783 September 3 – Delegates from America and Britain signed the Treaty of Paris, which ended negotiations in the American Revolutionary War and showed that Britain recognized the United States of America as an independent nation.

## **Patriots versus Loyalists Vocabulary List**

**American Revolution (1775–1783):** A war between the American colonies and the British Empire over American independence from British rule.

**Articles of Association:** A document created by the Continental Congress in 1774 that made the import and export of goods from the American states to Great Britain illegal.

**Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union:** An agreement drafted in 1776 and approved by the Continental Congress in 1781 as the first Constitution of the United States of America.

**Battle of Bunker Hill – June 17, 1775:** An early battle in the American Revolutionary War fought between Patriot rebels and British soldiers. The battle was ultimately won by the British, but the Patriots lost fewer men than expected. For the first time they believed there was a chance that they could defeat British soldiers in traditional warfare.

**Battle of Long Island – August 27, 1776:** A major victory for the British Army that was fought against troops led by General George Washington. It gave the British control over New York City.

**Battles of Lexington and Concord – April 19, 1775:** Located in Massachusetts, these battles were the first ones fought in the American Revolution.

**Boston Massacre – March 5, 1770:** Five colonists were killed by British soldiers in Boston, Massachusetts. This event was used by Patriot leaders to show the American people the damage that was being done by the British soldiers who were stationed in the colonies.

**Boston Tea Party – December 16, 1773:** A political protest against the Townsend Acts by the Sons of Liberty, who were dressed as Native Americans. They threw tea that belonged to the East India Company into Boston Harbor because they refused to pay taxes on the goods that were forcibly coming into America.

**British Empire:** A large and powerful empire established in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and governed by King George III from 1760–1801, comprised of several territories. At one point, the British Empire extended across nearly a quarter of the world's land mass, made up nearly a quarter of the world's population and had territories on every continent.

**Committee of Safety and Inspection:** A civil government in Greenwich that made sure that the local citizens obeyed the laws passed by the Continental Congress.

**Common Sense:** A pamphlet written by Thomas Paine published in 1776 that inspired the American colonists to fight for independence from Great Britain.

**Continental Army:** Formed by the Continental Congress in 1775 and led by General George Washington to oppose the British soldiers who were attempting to gain control over the American colonies. Connecticut was assigned nine Continental regiments to fill in 1776. The Continental Army was disbanded in 1783 after the Treaty of Paris signified that Great Britain recognized the United States as an independent country.

**Continental Congress:** A meeting of representatives from all 13 colonies that became the governing body for what would eventually be the United States of America.

**Cornwallis, Charles (1738–1805):** One of the leading British generals whose surrender to General George Washington in the Siege of Yorktown marked the end of fighting in the American Revolutionary War.

**Debate:** A discussion on a particular topic in a public meeting in which opposing arguments are presented.

**Declaration of Independence:** A document drafted mainly by Thomas Jefferson in 1776 to announce American independence from Great Britain.

**Declaratory Act:** An act of Parliament that was put in place after the Stamp Act was removed because of protests by the American colonists. The Declaratory Act allowed Parliament to impose taxes on goods imported to the American colonies without giving the colonists representation in Parliament.

**East India Company:** A European trade company controlled by the British government that had a monopoly over the trade of goods in and out of the American colonies.

**Martial Law:** When the military is allowed to accuse a person of a crime and pass judgment without a formal court decision.

**Monopoly:** When a company has total control over the supply of goods to a country.

**Landing at Kip's Bay – September 15, 1776:** British landing of Royal Navy ships on the eastern side of Manhattan that helped to secure the British hold on New York City.

**Loyalist:** An American colonist who supported British rule and was loyal to Britain.

**“No Taxation without Representation”:** A phrase used by American colonists because they considered taxes imposed on them by the British government to be illegal according to the English Bill of Rights, which forbade taxation without representation in Parliament.

**Patriot:** An American colonist devoted to the rebel cause of fighting against British rule and taxation. The Patriots wanted to form an independent country.

**Porter, Joshua (1730–1825):** A colonel in the Continental Army who oversaw the production of cannons at the Salisbury Cannon and Iron Foundry in Connecticut.

**Putnam, Israel (1718–1790):** A general in the Continental Army who led Connecticut troops. He is known in Greenwich, Connecticut for his narrow escape down a cow path near the Horseneck military post. He saw British soldiers coming and ordered his men to

retreat while he rode to Stamford, Connecticut to get help.-**Ratify:** To give formal consent to a contract or agreement, making it officially valid.

**Revolution:** A forcible overthrow of a government in favor of a new system.

**Royal Colony:** A colony ruled by a governor appointed by the King of Britain.

**Siege of Boston (1775–1776):** Troops of Continental soldiers led by General Washington surrounded the city of Boston for 11 months in order to prevent the British soldiers from coming too far inland. The British soldiers eventually retreated on ships to Quebec, Canada.

**Siege of Yorktown, 1781:** A victory led by General George Washington and French Army troops over the British hold in Yorktown, Virginia, which led to the end of fighting in the American Revolutionary War.

**Silliman, Gold Selleck (1732–1790):** General in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. He defended the border of Connecticut where Loyalist colonists were coming into Patriot land and destroying houses and farmland. In May, 1779 General Silliman and his son were kidnapped by Loyalists. A year later they were traded for a high ranking prisoner that the Americans had kidnapped in order to free the general and his son.

**Sons of Liberty:** A group of American colonists formed to protest the actions of the British government and best known for organizing the Boston Tea Party.

**Stamp Act Congress:** A meeting of delegates from nine of the American colonies to discuss how to protest the Stamp Act.

**Stamp Act of 1765:** A law passed by Parliament in 1765 which put a direct tax on publications and all legal documents, including commercial contracts, pamphlets, playing cards, wills, diplomas and newspapers. These documents were required to carry a tax stamp.

**Tax:** A charge on property and goods that is paid to those in authority.

**Townsend Acts:** A series of tax acts that were named after Charles Townsend, a member of Parliament in Great Britain. Taxes were placed on goods imported to the American colonies, such as paper and tea.

**Traitor:** A person who turns against his or her governing country.

**Treaty of Alliance with France (1778):** A treaty between the newly formed United States of America and France that promised military support from both sides if either country were attacked by Britain. The alliance ultimately helped the United States win the American Revolutionary War.

**Treaty of Paris (1783):** A treaty between American delegates and British representatives that ended negotiations in the American Revolutionary War. The treaty allowed the newly formed 13 states the freedom to govern their own land and trade agreements, and also showed that Great Britain recognized the United States of America as an independent country.

**Trumbull, Jonathan (1710–1785):** Governor of Connecticut who served during the American Revolutionary War. He was a friend and advisor to General George Washington and gave resources from Connecticut to the Continental Army.

**Tryon, William (1729–1788):** Royal Governor of New York and Major-General in the British Army during the American Revolution. In 1779 he led attacks on Greenwich, New Haven, Fairfield and Norwalk, setting fire to local property in an unsuccessful attempt to draw out the Continental Army units that were fighting against the British soldiers in New York City.

## Classroom Activities



**1. Debate Practice:** Have students practice a debate by dividing the classroom in half or by setting up a debate between two classes that will attend the Patriots vs. Loyalists School Programs Tour at the Bush-Holley House.

Look at the Debate Procedures for an outline of the rules of the debate and how to assign students different roles. Try a debate about a favorite sports team or recess activity, narrowing the selections down to two and have the students choose a side. Allowing the students to practice a debate in the classroom before their visit will ensure a focus on education about the local history surrounding the Bush-Holley House and the influence of the American Revolution, rather than on the rules and structure of the debate itself.

**2. Persuasive Essay:** Have students write a one-page persuasive essay in the classroom to practice sentence structure and persuasive language.

Students can choose a subject they feel passionate about and write why they think others should feel the same way. Using the Argument Worksheet, students can write an Opening Statement, Supporting Arguments, Rebuttal and Closing Statement and then expand these statements to form a one-page essay. Constructing a persuasive essay will reinforce the debate portion of the tour and allow students to focus on historical facts about the Loyalist-Patriot argument and how it influenced life for the Bush family.



## Debate Procedures



### Rules of the Debate

1. Students will respect each other's point of view.
2. Students will listen attentively to the speaker.
3. Only one person will speak at a time.
4. Have fun!

### Debate Roles

#### Opening Statement Presenter(s) (1–3 Students):

This group will present the main argument in an introductory statement without going into too much detail.

#### Supporting Argument Presenters (3 Students):

This group will present the main arguments for the team. Each presenter will give one specific detail to support the main argument.

#### Rebuttal Presenter(s) (1–3 Students):

This group will present arguments against the supporting arguments of the other team by using specific information.

#### Closing Statement Presenter(s) (1–3 Students):

This group will present the closing arguments by repeating the main idea and providing reasons for support. The closing statement should be powerful and convincing – this is the last chance to get the group's point across.

# Argument Worksheet



- 1. Opening Statement: Write one full sentence stating which side of the argument you are on and why you think the students on the other side of the argument should change their minds.**

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- 2. Supporting Arguments: Write three full sentences, each with one benefit to your side of the argument.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

- 3. Rebuttal: Think of the benefits of the other side of the argument. Write one full sentence stating one benefit to the other side and why you think that benefit is not enough to persuade you.**

(Example: I know that you think the Chicago Bears are a better football team than the Minnesota Vikings, but the Minnesota Vikings have played in more Super Bowl games than the Chicago Bears.)

I know you think \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
however, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

- 4. Closing Statement: Write one full sentence summing up your side of the argument and why you think the students on the other side of the argument should change their minds.**

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