

Tory, Patriot, or Neutral?

Description: The year is 1776. You hear a patriot give a speech saying that it is time that America gains its independence. He says that the Colonies have suffered from excessive taxation and regulations. He gives many examples of unfair treatment of the Colonies by the British king and harsh treatment by his troops. He says that the time has come for us to be our own separate nation and, if necessary, fight for our rights and freedom. He claims that God will be on our side because our cause is just and the king is violating basic human rights. He says that independence would bring the colonies wealth through better trade opportunities, new jobs, and a cheaper source for goods than if we were to remain a part of the British Empire. You have also read the Declaration of Independence and the pamphlet, "Common Sense" by Thomas Paine and are familiar with the arguments they contain for Independence.

Directions:

Choose one of the people from the list below and imagine that you are that person. How would you feel about independence? How would it affect you? Would you have any special reason why you would think that independence would benefit America or benefit you personally, or would you be against it? Perhaps you have mixed feelings or feel that it wouldn't make any difference to you personally. Use your imagination and write a one-page statement that explains what your person would think about independence.

- A housewife from Trenton
- A fisherman from Cape Cod
- A maid from Williamsburg
- A Quaker minister from Pennsylvania
- A farmer from Maryland
- A shipbuilder from Newport, Rhode Island
- A naval captain from Newhaven
- A slave from North Carolina
- A sailor from Rhode Island
- A whaler from Nantucket
- A merchant from New York
- A recent immigrant from the region of Germany
- A banker from Boston.
- A plantation owner from Savannah, Georgia