Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Viewpoints during the American Revolution

African Americans:

**“I Began to Feel the Happiness, Liberty, of which I Knew Nothing Before”: Boston King Chooses Freedom and the Loyalists during the War for Independence**

Realizing that their best chance of emancipation lay with the British army, as many as 100,000 enslaved African Americans became Loyalists during the War for Independence. They risked possible resale by the British or capture by the Americans, and many became refugees when the British withdrew at the end of the war. Born near Charleston, South Carolina, Boston King fled his owner to join the British. He escaped captivity several times and made his way to New York, the last American port to be evacuated by the British. King was listed in the “Book of Negroes” and issued a certificate of freedom, allowing him to board one of the military transport ships bound for the free black settlements in Nova Scotia. There, King worked as a carpenter and became a Methodist minister. He moved to Sierra Leone in 1792 and published his memoirs, one of a handful of first-person accounts by African-American Loyalist refugees.

Boston King:

*When 16 years old, I was bound apprentice to a trade. After being in the shop about two years, I had the charge of my master’s tools, if them were lost, or misplaced, my master beat me severely, striking me upon my head, or any other part without mercy. To escape his cruelty, I determined to go Charles-Town, and throw myself into the hands of the English. They received me readily, and I began to feel the happiness of liberty, of which I knew nothing before, altho’ I was much grieved at first, to be obliged to leave my friends, and reside among strangers. I marched with the army to Chamblem. When we came to the head-quarters, our regiment was 35 miles off. I stayed at the head-quarters three weeks, during which time our regiment had an engagement with the Americans…*

*About which time, (in 1783) the horrors and devastation of war happily terminated, and peace was restored between America and Great Britain, which diffused universal joy among all parties, except us, who had escaped from slavery and taken refuge in the English army; for a report prevailed at New-York, that all the slaves, in number 2000, were to be delivered up to their masters, altho' some of them had been three or four years among the English. This dreadful rumor filled us all with inexpressible anguish and terror, especially when we saw our old masters coming from Virginia, North-Carolina, and other parts, and seizing upon their slaves in the streets of New-York, or even dragging them out of their beds. Many of the slaves had very cruel masters, so that the thoughts of returning home with them embittered life to us. For some days we lost our appetite for food, and sleep departed from our eyes. The English had compassion upon us in the day of distress, and issued out a Proclamation, importing, that all slaves should be free, who had taken refuge in the British lines. In consequence of this, each of us received a certificate from the commanding officer at New-York, which dispelled all our fears, and filled us with joy and gratitude. Soon after, ships were fitted out, and furnished with every necessary for conveying us to Nova Scotia. We arrived at Burch Town in the month of August, where we all safely landed. Every family had a lot of land, and we exerted all our strength in order to build comfortable huts before the cold weather set in.*

Why did Boston King decide to join the British? What risks did he take by joining the British army?

Was there any way that the Continental Congress could have kept slaves like Boston King from siding with the British?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Viewpoints during the American Revolution

American Loyalist:

# Charles Inglis The True Interest of America Impartially Stated 1776

One of the best evidences of the power of Paine's *Common Sense* is the number of Loyalists who leaped to the counterattack. Some of these are better known to history then the Anglican clergyman Charles Inglis, but none made a more succinct statement of the forebodings of Loyalists. His anonymous counterblast against Paine was entitled,*The True Interest of America Impartially Stated in Certain Strictures on a Pamphlet Intitled Common Sense*. Inglis had come to live in America in 1755 and, at the outbreak of hostilities, was attached to Trinity Church in New York City. Throughout the war he kept writing essays intended to convince the patriots that they were on the wrong track.

I think it no difficult matter to point out many advantages which will certainly attend our reconciliation and connection with Great-Britain, on a firm, constitutional plan. I shall select a few of these; and that their importance may be more clearly discerned, I shall afterwards point out some of the evils which inevitably must attend our separating from Britain, and declaring for independency. On each article I shall study brevity.

2. By a Reconciliation with Great-Britain, Peace - that fairest offspring and gift of Heaven - will be restored. In one respect Peace is like health; we do not sufficiently know its value but by its absence.

3. Agriculture, commerce, and industry would resume their wonted vigor. At present, they languish and droop, both here and in Britain; and must continue to do so, while this unhappy contest remains unsettled.

4. By a connection with Great-Britain, our trade would still have the protection of the greatest naval power in the world.

5. When a Reconciliation is effected, and things return into the old channel, a few years of peace will restore everything to its pristine state. Emigrants will flow in as usual from the different parts of Europe. Population will advance with the same rapid progress as formerly, and our lands will rise in value.

The Americans are properly Britons. They have the manners, habits, and ideas of Britons; and have been accustomed to a similar form of government. But Britons never could bear the extremes, either of monarchy or republicanism. Some of their Kings have aimed at despotism; but always failed. Repeated efforts have been made towards democracy, and they equally failed. Limited monarchy is the form of government which is most favorable to liberty - which is best adapted to the genius and temper of Britons

What arguments does Inglis make for reconciling with Great Briton?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Viewpoints during the American Revolution

American Patriot:

# Second Continental Congress Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking up Arms July 6 1775

When the second Continental Congress convened in May 1775, the battles of Lexington and Concord had already been fought, and an informally organized American army was besieging General Gage's troops in Boston. It now became imperative either to plan and justify further operations or to give in. The Americans chose continued resistance.

A declaration by the Representatives of the United Colonies of North-America, now met in Congress at Philadelphia, setting forth the causes and necessity of their taking up arms

The legislature of Great-Britain… attempted to affect their cruel and impolitic purpose of enslaving these colonies by violence, and have thereby rendered it necessary for us to close with their last appeal from reason to arms. Our forefathers, inhabitants of the island of Great-Britain, left their native land, to seek on these shores a residence for civil and religious freedom. At the expense of their blood, at the hazard of their fortunes, without the least charge to the country from which they removed, by unceasing labor, and an unconquerable spirit, they effected settlements in the distant and inhospitable wilds of America, then filled with numerous and warlike nations of barbarians. Societies or governments, vested with perfect legislatures, were formed under charters from the crown, and an harmonious intercourse was established between the colonies and the kingdom from which they derived their origin.

Parliament was influenced to assume a new power over them [the colonies]. They have undertaken to give and grant our money without our consent, statutes have been passed for extending the jurisdiction of military courts beyond their ancient limits; for depriving us of the accustomed privilege of trial by jury; for suspending the legislature of one of the colonies; for interdicting all commerce to the capital of another; and for quartering soldiers upon the colonists in time of profound peace.

In our own native land, in defense of the freedom that is our birthright, and which we ever enjoyed till the late violation of it -- for the protection of our property, acquired solely by the honest industry of our fore-fathers and ourselves, against violence actually offered, we have taken up arms. Our cause is just. Our union is perfect. Our internal resources are great, and, if necessary, foreign assistance is undoubtedly attainable.

What arguments does the Continental Congress make to persuade Americans to fight the British?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Viewpoints during the American Revolution

Native American:

At the outbreak of the Revolutionary crisis in the 1760s, Native Americans faced a familiar task of navigating among competing European imperial powers on the continent of North America. At the close of the era in the 1780s, Native Americans faced a "New World" with the creation of the new United States of America. During the years of conflict, Native American groups, like many others residents of North America, had to choose the loyalist or patriot cause—or somehow maintain a neutral stance. But the Native Americans had distinctive issues all their own in trying to hold on to their homelands as well as maintain access to trade and supplies as war engulfed their lands too. Some allied with the British, while others fought alongside the American colonists.

The Oneida, one of the Six Nations, tried to remain neutral but eventually ended up on the American side, which split the Six Nations. This document is from early in the war and also refers to the "family quarrel," a fight that doesn't concern the Native Americans. Here, the Native Americans are addressing the Americans as "brothers."

THE ONEIDA INDIANS TO GOVERNOR TRUMBULL

BROTHERS-"We have heard you speak by your letter-we thank you for it: we now make answer. Now we more immediately address you, our brother, the governor, and the chiefs of New-England.

" BROTHERS-We have heard of the unhappy differences and great contention between you and Old England. We wonder greatly, and are troubled in our minds.

" BROTHERS-Possess your minds in peace respecting us Indians. We cannot intermeddle in this dispute between two brothers. The quarrel seems to be unnatural. You are two brothers of one blood. We are unwilling to join on either side in such a contest, for we bear an equal affection to both you Old and New England. Should the great King of England apply to us for aid, we shall deny him; if the colonies apply, we shall refuse. The present situation of you two brothers is new and strange to us. We Indians cannot find, nor recollect in the traditions of our ancestors, the like case, or a similar instance.

" BROTHERS-For these reasons possess your minds in peace, and take no umbrage that we Indians refuse joining in the contest. We are for peace.

" BROTHERS-As we have declared for peace, we desire you will not apply to our Indian brethren in New-England for their assistance. Let us Indians be all of one mind, and live with one another; and you white people settle your own disputes between yourselves."

Why would the Native Americans wish to remain neutral in a war between the Colonists and Great Britain?

Why do you think the Oneida Indians eventually chose to fight with the Colonists?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Viewpoints during the American Revolution

Women

Options for women in eighteenth-century colonial society were far more restricted than they are today. Colonial women were supposed to be loyal helpmates to their husbands. Since the only status a woman could expect to achieve was through the man she married, nearly all colonial women married. Once married, women ceased to have any legally independent existence; under English common law they were *femes covert,* which meant that husbands were protectors as well as absolute masters. With no legally independent existence, a women’s social existence was largely defined by the position of her husband. Even a woman’s property and wages accrued to the husband after marriage. Women moved through world under the control of men – from father to husband. While women were allowed only a limited public role, they were neither passive nor unimportant. The social significance of women became increasingly apparent to both men and women as the colonies struggled to secure their independence. The war gave women the opportunity to demonstrate their capacity to assume responsibilities regarded as male. For instance, many women took charge of family farms. Historians have noted that during the war, in their letters to husband, women often changed from writing ‘your farm’ to ‘our farm.’ The Revolutionary War did not substantially change the material lives of most women; but women’s intelligence and capacities were grudgingly acknowledged. Women came to have more choice in marriage; the importance of motherhood was recognized, and opportunities for education improved.

**War Stories from Watertown, 1775**

**From Betsy Hunt Palmer’s Diary –** “On the night of the 18th of April I heard the drum beat; I waked Mr. Palmer and said, 'My dear, I hear the drum.' He was out of bed ...[like] a bullet from a gun...His father entered and said, 'my son, we must ride. I have received an express message. Three men lie dead at Lexington.' My husband was off in an instant. He told me that there would probably be another brigade along soon and that I had better remove out of the way....I never saw anything of them until the next night at ten o'clock."

Betsy Palmer then tells us that she took her children and her mother and father to Newton - out of harm's way. There they made bandages from old clothing, and began preparing food.

"Well it was good we did so, for long before night, the poor fellows began to return in a dreadful plight, hungry and dirty and weary, some so exhausted as to lie down on the floor...unable to stand. From them I learned...that the day had been a dreadful one; many brave fellows dead or dying, 'but we beat the rascals and have driven them back to Boston. I waited anxiously for the return of my husband and his father...[Finally] they rode up to the door, scarcely able to sit on their horses and quite unable to dismount without assistance...so exhausted that they could hardly speak or move...it was many hours before they showed any encouraging signs..."

What role(s) did Betsy Palmer take during the Battle of Lexington and Concord?

How did the American Revolution impact the lives of women?