

# South Carolina

## 1757-1815

8th Grade



Standard 2: Demonstrate an understanding of how South Carolinians and Americans created a revolutionary form of government during the period of 1757– 1815.

8.2.CO Compare the motives and demographics of loyalists and patriots within South Carolina and the colonies. This indicator was developed to encourage inquiry into the economic, political, and social motivations of the patriots and the loyalists in the era of the American Revolution.

8.2.CE Explain the economic, political, and social factors surrounding the American Revolution. This indicator was developed to encourage inquiry into how the colonies began to unify to create a distinctive American identity over the course of events of the American Revolution.

8.2.P Analyze significant founding principles that led to the development of federalism in South Carolina and the United States. This indicator was designed to encourage inquiry into the development of the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and representative democracy.

8.2.CX Contextualize the roles of various groups of South Carolinians as the colonies moved toward becoming an independent nation. This indicator was developed to encourage inquiry into the motivations of colonists during the American Revolution and the progression of conflict and failed compromise that ultimately led to revolution.

# Loyalists

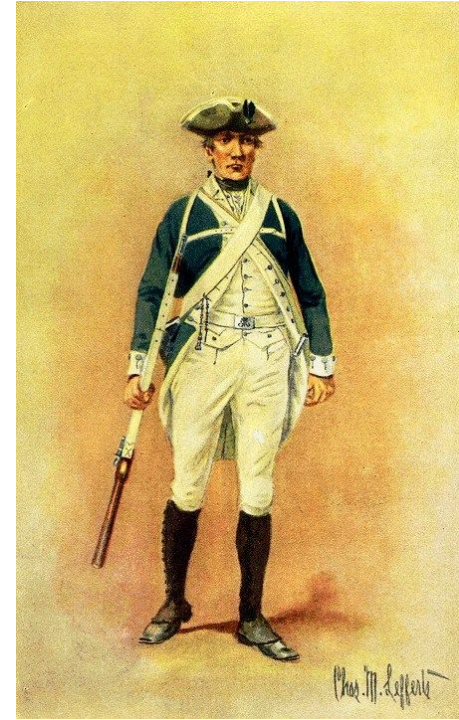
- Believed in the duty to follow the King, feared chaos/mob rule, and valued the safety of the British Empire.
- Loyalists thought separation would destroy the economy and the colonies could not survive without British protection.
- Approximately 25,000 served in British regiments, fighting against their fellow colonists
- Loyalists often referred to as Tories were typically from the upper to high middle class.



Loyalist Soldiers, painting by Randy Steele.

# Patriots

- No taxation without representation; Britain is destroying colonial rights.
- Strongest in New England, often farmers, middle-class Protestants.
- Led the Continental Army and local militias; utilized propaganda to gain support
- Valued Enlightenment ideals, self-determination, and felt British rule was tyrannical
- Patriots were often a part of the middle to lower class



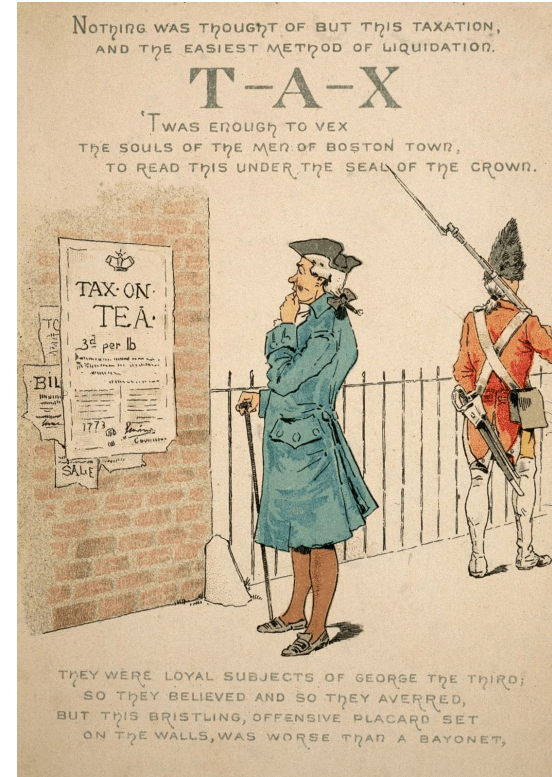
***Uniforms of the Armies in the War of the American Revolution*** painting by Charles M. Lefferts

# Political Factors

- After the end of the French and Indian War in 1763, the British government imposed new taxes in the Thirteen Colonies.
- The French and Indian War would determine which nation, France or England would control America and was very expensive.
- Beginning with the [Stamp Act of 1765](#), the British wanted to use taxation to pay off their war debt. They justified the Stamp Act by saying the revenue raised would be used to protect the Thirteen Colonies now and in the future.
- The Thirteen Colonies were used to political autonomy. As a result, the implementation of the Stamp Act was not received well and the colonists heavily resisted the new law.
- The [Townshend Acts](#) (1767) were met with popular resistance, as was the [Tea Act of 1773](#).
- Patriot politicians and groups such as the [Sons of Liberty](#) argued that the British did not have the right to tax the colonies without their consent.
- With the Tea Act, violent rebellion increased, leading to the [Boston Tea Party](#) in December 1773.
- The British closed Boston Harbor, under the [Coercive Acts](#).
- Colonial government bodies were set up to challenge the British, such as the [Committees of Correspondence](#), and the [First Continental Congress](#)
- From 1773 to 1775, the colonies created their own political identity, and rejected the monarchical, undemocratic structure put in place by the British

# Economic Factors

- The French and Indian War had been economically devastating in America.
- News taxes were considered were considered unfair by the colonists.
- Everything from newspapers to books, and from diplomas to wills was taxed, for the sole reason of repaying the war debt.
- Under the Townshend Acts, the British tightened their control on American trade.
- The Americans wanted to stop living under the policies of British mercantilism, and economic exploitation.



# Social Factors

- Many still held loyalties to the British Crown.
- There was more fluid social mobility in the colonies compared to in Britain.
- The Thirteen Colonies had their own social identity. The geographic separation from Britain created cultural differences, and while the colonists hugely respected the king, the notion that all men are created equal began to gain popularity.
- The British attempted to station their soldiers in the colonies, such as under the Quartering Acts of 1765 and 1774. This act in particular made the colonists uneasy and fearful.
- Respect was lost for the British monarchy and King George.



King George III by Johann Zoffany, 1771.

# Federalism in South Carolina and America

- **federalism — the balance between state sovereignty and national union.**
- March 1776, South Carolina became the second colony to draft a state constitution and elect a president as chief executive
- The war tested South Carolina's federalist view. Early victories, such as the Battle of Sullivan's Island in 1776, were achieved with combined Continental Army and state militia forces
- By 1782, the British evacuated Charleston and South Carolina restored an elected government.
- The state's delegation to the 1787 Constitutional Convention — including John Rutledge, Charles Pinckney, and Pierce Butler — helped shape the U.S. Constitution, reflecting a federalist tradition that valued both state rights and a strong union.



The Battle of Sullivan's Island

# Federalism: Roles Documents Played

Declaration of Independence : Asserted the principle of self-governance and the right to abolish unjust rule

Articles of Confederation : Established a "league of friendship" where states remained almost entirely sovereign.U.S.

Constitution : Created a formal federal structure with shared powers and the Supremacy Clause.

Bill of Rights : Clarified the limits of federal power, with the 10th Amendment reserving all non-delegated powers to the states or the people.



# Women in Revolutionary War

Women played critical roles in the American Revolution and subsequent War for Independence.

Some acted as spies or gave troops early warnings that the British were headed their direction.

Other women followed troops to offer medical help, cook for the troops, and mend their clothing.

Nancy Morgan Hart from Georgia was like many American frontier women, played an important role not only in defending her family and community during the War for Independence. She is featured in an exhibit at the Anderson County Museum.

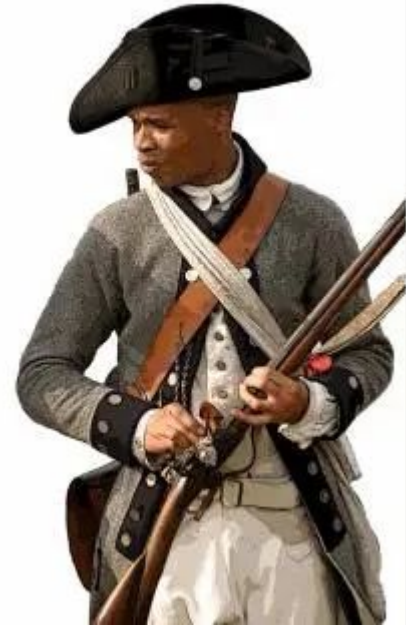


# African Americans in Revolutionary War

500,000 African Americans lived in the colonies.

450,000 (90 percent) were enslaved. They fought in provincial regiments prior to the war, and 5,000 African American soldiers and sailors, free and slave, served the Revolutionary cause.

Boyrereau Brinch, also known as Jeffrey Brace, left a diary about his experiences as a light infantryman in General George Washington's army.



# Native Americans In Revolutionary War

Many rebel colonists thought that Native Americans would naturally be aligned with the British. But most Native communities tried to avoid getting involved

But both the British and the Americans sought out Native allies throughout the conflict.

The Cherokee nation was split between a group that supported the colonists and another that sided with Britain.

The Oneida, Tuscarora, and Iroquois sided with the colonists.

The Mohawk sided with the British army.



British officers and Native American elders negotiate on the frontier. *Getty Images*

# Resources

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/educators/curriculum/revolutionary-south-carolina>

[https://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object/nmah\\_504566](https://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object/nmah_504566)

[https://pimedia.com/sarah-anderson/2025/10/08/nancy-heart-a-fearless-patriot-you-might-not-have-heard-of-n4943702#google\\_vignette](https://pimedia.com/sarah-anderson/2025/10/08/nancy-heart-a-fearless-patriot-you-might-not-have-heard-of-n4943702#google_vignette)

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/biographies/nancy-hart>

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/10-facts-black-patriots-american-revolution>

<https://revolutionarywarjournal.com/boyreureau-brinch-african-american-continental-soldiers-hand-to-hand-combat-and-daring-escape-from-british-dragoons/>

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/roles-native-americans-during-revolution>