

UNIT 4

DOCUMENT BASED QUESTIONS

Analyze the conflicts and challenges between Loyalists and Patriots in Revolutionary Georgia.

DOCUMENT A: Letter From A Georgia Loyalist

[B]ut about a month ago, a mob of about an hundred dissolute fellows surrounded his [Jonas Brown's] house, with intention to tar and feather him; upon which he came out armed, and while he was reasoning the case with them at the door, he was knocked down with the butt-end of a musquet then laid like a calf across a horse, and tied to a tree while yet insensible, and tarred and feathered.

Letter from Dr. Thomas Taylor to Mr. Morrison of Birtley White House, Savannah, December 16, 1775. *Newcastle Courant*. January 24, 1776. Reprinted in Robert S. Davis, Jr. "A Georgia Loyalist's Perspective on the American Revolution: The Letters of Dr. Thomas Taylor," *The Georgia Historical Quarterly* Vol. 81, No. 1 (Spring 1997), 118-138.

DOCUMENT B: Newspaper Article From A Georgia Loyalist

We have an enemy at our backs. . . We fled at their approach; we left our property at their mercy; and we have implored [begged] the assistance of Great Britain to humble these haughty Creeks . . . the question is not now, whether the Parliament has a right to tax the Americans, but whether the Americans have a right to destroy private property with impunity [without consequence]. . .

Georgia Gazette, August 10, 1774, "A Loyalist View," reprinted in Thomas A. Scott, Ed. *Cornerstone of Georgia History: Documents That Formed the State* (Athens: UGA Press, 1995), 41.

DOCUMENT C: Diary Of A Georgia Loyalist

If a Tory refused to join the people, he was imprisoned, and tarred and feathered. . . Our teachers became officers in the rebel army, and everywhere the scum rose to the top. All public officers under Government remained loyal or quit the country, their estates being confiscated and afterward sold. . . My father saw an armed party near the house. . . The leader of the party was . . . Mr. John Milledge, whom my father had known from his infancy . . . and his turning against my father served to show the spirit of the times and the violence with which civil wars are entered upon.

Elizabeth Lichtenstein Johnston diary, Arthur Wentworth Eaton, ed. *Recollections of a Georgia Loyalist*, 1836, 45-46. Library of Congress.

DOCUMENT D: List Of Loyalist Land Confiscated

All those who had joined the Enemy previous to the fall of Charlestown & neglected to avail themselves . . . the Govt offering pardons to those who should return to their Allegiance. The Estates of all those who were Banished for refusing to take the oaths of Fidelity & Excepting the Estates of those who by Death were prevented from Disposing of their Estates. 10 per Cent on the value of their Estates of all those were Excluded by the Govt. proclamations & who have notwithstanding come out and Surrendered themselves before the passing this Act & who are pardoned on the above terms.

List of Loyalists Whose Lands Were Confiscated, 1780s. Georgia Historical Society.

UNIT 4

DBQs CONTINUED

Analyze the conflicts and challenges between Loyalists and Patriots in Revolutionary Georgia.DOCUMENT E: Newspaper Article From Georgia Patriot

. . . [T]he question according to him is, “Whether the Americans have a right to destroy private property with impunity.” This question . . . implies a very genteel [polite] compliment to the Americans in general, and may be taken as a decisive [producing a definite result] proof that the author is no American, nor a friend or acquaintance. . . I dare say every American will very readily answer: We no more think we have a right to destroy private property than we think you have a right to take our property from us without our consent.

A FREEHOLDER

Georgia Gazette, August 10, 1774, “A Patriot Replies,” reprinted in Thomas A. Scott, Ed. Cornerstone of Georgia History: Documents That Formed the State (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1995), 42-3.

DOCUMENT F: Law Acknowledging American Rebellion Against British In Georgia

To disqualify and render incapable the several persons herein named from holding or exercising any office of trust, honour, or Profit in the Province of Georgia for a Certain time and for Other purposes therein Mentioned.

WHEREAS a most Audacious [recklessly brave] wicked and unprovoked Rebellion was lately raised and carried on against his Majesty in the province of Georgia . . . in a most violent, hostile and unlawful manner usurped [seized by force] the Government thereof, and erected themselves into a pretended independent State, where they exercised many Acts of Violence and Oppression, in contempt of his said Majesty and his Laws, and to the great distress and injury of his Loyal Subjects. And whereas the several persons herein after named were Active and concerned in the said unlawful proceedings or some of them. We therefore Pray your most sacred Majesty that it may be Enacted . . . in and over his Majesty’s Province of Georgia . . . that immediately from and after the passing of this Act, and during the Continuance thereof, the same persons herein after named.

The British Disqualifying Act, 1780. In Robert S. Davis, Georgia Citizens and Soldiers of the American Revolution (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979).

DOCUMENT G: Proclamation Of Governor Wright

Whereas I have received information that . . . a number of persons . . . did unlawfully assemble together . . . in the town of Savannah, under colour or pretense of consulting together for the redress of public grievances or imaginary grievances . . . [I] issue this my proclamation that all such summonses and calls by private persons, and all assembling and meetings of the people which may tend to raise fears and jealousies in the minds of his Majesty’s subjects . . . are unconstitutional, illegal and punishable by law. . . I do hereby require all his Majesty’s subjects . . . to pay due regard to this . . . as they will answer the contrary at their peril.

Governor James Wright’s Proclamation, August 5, 1774. In George White, Ed. Historical Collections of Georgia (New York: Pudney & Russell, 1855), 46-47.

UNIT 4

DBQs CONTINUED

Analyze the conflicts and challenges between Loyalists and Patriots in Revolutionary Georgia.

DOCUMENT H: Scholar Explains Confiscation Of Loyalist Property

. . . 128,330 acres were confiscated from 166 Loyalists and sold to only 188 Whigs. The eleven Loyalists who suffered most heavily lost 33,891 acres or about one-third of the total-- an average of 3,000 acres each. The remaining 155 Loyalists lost an average of only a little over 600 acres apiece. Prizes to individual Whigs ranged from a few head of livestock or a single slave to many ton lots and thousands of acres of arable [suitable for farming] rice lands.

Robert Lambert, "The Confiscation of Loyalist Property in Georgia, 1782-1786," *The William and Mary Quarterly* Vol. 20, No. 1 (Jan., 1963), 92-93.

DOCUMENT I: Law Punishing Georgia Loyalists

AN ACT for attainting such persons as are therein mentioned of high Treason, and for Confiscating their Estates, both real and personal to the use of this State. . .

. . . [T]hat in case any or either of the persons above named, and who are herein and hereby attainted [passed sentence of death upon] of high Treason shall hereafter Return to this State, or be taken in Arms against the Authority of this State, or the United States, and shall be brought within the limits of this State, such person or persons shall be subject to arrest, imprisonment and trial for the crime of high treason, and shall on conviction thereof in any Court of record where by the laws of this State, such person or persons shall be triable, Receive sentence and judgment of death, and shall suffer . . .

And whereas such persons as have forfeited the personal protection of, and been Guilty of high Treason Against the State, Contrary to their duty and Allegiance to the same, do also incur the forfeiture of their property And possessions both real and personal. . .

"First Act of Attainder," General Assembly of Georgia, 1781. Provincial Archives of New Brunswick.

DOCUMENT J: Colonial Population Of Georgia 1765-1780

Colonial Population of Georgia			
Year	Total	White	Black
1765	11,300	6,800	4,500
1770	23,375	12,750	10,625
1773	33,000	18,000	15,000
1780	56,071	35,240	20,831

Adapted from Robert G. Brooking, "My Zeal for the Real Happiness of Both Great Britain and the Colonies': The Conflict-ing Imperial Career of Sir James Wright," Dissertation, Georgia State University, 2013.

UNIT 4

DBQs CONTINUED

Analyze the conflicts and challenges between Loyalists and Patriots in Revolutionary Georgia.

DOCUMENT K: Loyalist Recruiting Poster In Georgia

All Spirited
YOUNG MEN

Have now an opportunity of distinguishing themselves, (His Majesty having been graciously pleased to permit a regiment to be raised in this province, to assist in putting an end to the present unhappy rebellion) by joining the

GEORGIA LOYALISTS
COMMANDED BY
James WRIGHT, Esq;

for TWO YEARS, or during the continuance of the said REBELLION. They may depend on receiving the best of treatment, enter into immediate pay, and be well clothed. And on repairing to me in Savannah, shall receive a bounty of FIVE GUINEAS.

James WRIGHT, Jun.

Recruiting Poster, The Royal Georgia Gazette, (Savannah), August 12th, 1779. In Edwin Jackson and Mary Stakes, et al. The Georgia Studies Digital Textbook: Our State and Our Nation (Georgia Public Broadcasting, 2016), 180.

DOCUMENT L: Speech To Georgia General Assembly By Governor Wright

I must not omit acquainting [become familiar with] you that . . . his Majesty was graciously pleased to direct, that if this Province should be engaged in any actual Indian war, we should have every proper succour [assistance or aid] and protection. . . The alarming situation of American affairs at this juncture [a particular point in time] makes it highly necessary for me to say . . . it is with the utmost concern that I see by every account all the colonies . . . in a general ferment; and some of them in such a state as makes me shudder. . .

You may be advocates of liberty, so am I; but in a constitutional way . . . and let me entreat you to take care how you give a sanction to trample on law and government. . . It is the due course of law and support of government which only can ensure you the enjoyment of your lives, your liberty, and your estates. . .

The very dangerous and critical situation of our affairs with Creek Indians last spring . . . you shall now take the several matters formerly recommended to you into consideration . . . in order to preserve and continue to us peace and quietness with the Indian trade, and transactions in the Indian country, to prevent encroachments [intrusion] and trespasses on the lands and hunting grounds of the Indians and other irregularities and abuses being committed by hunters and other disorderly people. . . [I] most earnestly recommend a revisal of a Bill relative to Indian affairs. . .

Governor Wright's Speech to the General Assembly (Savannah), January 18, 1775. in Georgia White, ed. Historical Collections of Georgia (New York: Pudney & Russell, 1855), 50-51.