

Name _____

Reactions to the Declaration: Did All American Colonists Accept It?

Short Answer Key

1. Loyalists (Tories) opposed the Declaration of Independence because they remained loyal to the British crown. They viewed the declaration as an act of rebellion against legitimate authority and rejected the idea of American independence.
2. Divisions in public opinion among American colonists regarding the Declaration of Independence were influenced by various factors. Some were uncertain about the risks of rebellion and feared potential consequences from the British government. Others wanted to remain neutral to avoid involvement in the conflict. These factors contributed to a range of reactions.
3. Regional differences within the American colonies influenced reactions to the declaration. For example, New England colonies had a higher proportion of Patriots, while areas with strong ties to British trade and culture, such as the southern colonies, had more Loyalist sympathizers. These regional differences reflected varying levels of support for or opposition to the revolutionary cause and the declaration.
4. Evolving opinions among American colonists regarding the Declaration of Independence had a significant impact on the course of the Revolutionary War. Some individuals who initially opposed independence changed their minds as they witnessed events and circumstances that made them more sympathetic to the revolutionary cause. Conversely, some who had supported independence grew disillusioned with the challenges and sacrifices of the war.
5. The term commonly used to describe American colonists who supported the Declaration of Independence and the revolutionary cause is "Patriots." They were called Patriots because they fervently believed in the principles of individual rights and self-governance and were committed to the fight for independence from British rule.

