

Fearless Martha - Focus Activity

The choice is yours.

Major General Benjamin Lincoln surrendered his Continental troops and the city of Charleston on May 12, 1780. Over 5,000 men lay down their arms.

On May 29, 1780, Colonel Abraham Buford and his Continentals were defeated in the Battle of the Waxhaws by the British leader, Colonel Banastre Tarleton. The Americans were violently defeated with many casualties, and this battle was only a few miles from your home.

The war is moving closer to the New Acquisition (now York County), and decisions have to be made by each family.

Are you going to fight for independence or fight for the King? Why or why not?

Think-Pair-Share

With a partner, list possible advantages and disadvantages of your decision. Share these with the class.

Background:

One third of the colonists were on the King's side and were called Tories. Another third were for independence from England and were called Patriots. The rest were undecided. In some families sons were on the opposite side from their fathers. Women and children were left at home for months on end. Battles were fought on farms where crops were destroyed and homes sometimes burned.

Your Scotch-Irish family came to America for religious freedom. There was discrimination against your Protestant religion, and you couldn't hold public office or own land in Ireland. Also, taxes were so high that sometimes you had to choose between paying the taxes or having food to eat. Going back under English rule would change your life here in America.

