



If You Lived At The Time Of The American Revolution

Kay Moore , Daniel O'Leary (Illustrator)

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If you lived at the time of the American Revolution

--What started the American Revolution?

--Did everyone take sides?

--Would you have seen a battle?

Before 1775, thirteen colonies in America belonged to England. This book tells about the fight to be free and independent.

If You Lived At The Time Of The American Revolution Details

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Author : Kay Moore , Daniel O'Leary (Illustrator)

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Frances says

I like this book because it has a lot of information about everyday life in the colonies. You can learn how people lived, what they wore, what they learned in school, and many other facts. Sometimes in social studies we learn a lot about famous people and historical events, but we don't learn as much about the lives of regular people. This book tells about Patriots, Loyalists, boys and girls, and the lives of slaves. I recommend it for students in 5th, 4th, or 3rd grade.

Jennifer says

In an attempt to present a balanced view of patriots vs. loyalists views during the American Revolutionary War, the author leads the reader through a variety of questions. The questions create a simple way teachers can chunk information for students. The lack of a bibliography and citations makes it difficult for the reader to evaluate the information presented.

Shayla Miller says

Supplement the textbook and encourage critical thinking by digging deep into the lives of ordinary people during the American Revolution. Used to gain the perspectives of women, children, and men, this book will authenticate the experience for your students. Complete a KWL chart using this, internet sources, and your textbook. Compare and contrast the lives of the different people. Have your students pick a type of person and write "A Day in the Life of..."

Theresa Reifon says

Format/Length: Picture book/Question & Answer Sections; 80 pages

Theme(s): Historical era

Review:

This book is full of colorful illustrations that helps enhances the reader's understanding of the text. This book is an informational book that provides its readers with tons of factual information about the American Revolution. The text is very simplistic and is broke down into sections by questions and answers. Not only is the book broken down into smaller sections, but within the sections, the reader is exposed to short paragraphs, making it easy to comprehend. This book could very easily be integrated into a Literature or Social Studies classroom.

Cliffside Park Public Library (NJ) says

This book teaches readers what the American revolution was, and other very important facts. It teaches vocabulary and life in the colonies. I would recommend this book to younger readers because, it is basically an introduction to the revolution and it teaches many interesting facts. These facts are not in my text book today so when I read the book I was very impressed ,and so was my teacher when I told my class about the book.

L.G.

Grade 7

CLPK Young Adult Readers Advisory Board Member

Heather says

I picked this up last week to read with my son who has become extremely interested in the American Revolution. I've read other books in this series, and they are perfect for my seven-year-old's questions. We had a lot of fun reading and discussing together.

Mary Beth says

This was a fun, easy to read, history book for kids in a question and answer format. It had some good info and talked more than other books we have read about the Loyalists. I thought it was a good fit for 3rd grade history.

Kira Richardson says

I liked this book overall and it could easily integrate into Social Studies as well as literacy. The chapters of this book are actually questions such as: Did everyone in the colonies take sides? Why didn't girls go to school as much as boys? I liked that these questions could be used to answer what it would be like to live during the American Revolution, and I think that would make for a great social studies writing piece for students to write as if they were alive at that time. The book had realistic illustrations and also highlighted important people of the time.

Tamara says

As a teacher, I found this book incredibly useful to add interesting facts to my lessons that were already "kid-friendly". It did a great job of explaining to my students what life was like for you whether you were a patriot or a loyalist.

Laura Verret says

The more books I read from the ...*If You Lived* series, the more I like it. Because of the simple device this series employs (posing questions and then providing the answers), more thought-provoking issues are addressed than in the typical children's history book.

Here are a few of the most interesting Q&As.

Questions and Answers.

Did everyone in the colonies take sides?

No. Many people tried to stay neutral (not choose a side) during the war. Some changed sides depending on what was happening.

Many families split because of different views about the war. Some changed sides depending on what was happening.

Many families split because of different views about the war. Benjamin Franklin was a well-known Patriot. His son, William, was the Royal Governor of New Jersey and warned the people in that colony not to act against the king. William became the head of the Board of American Loyalists.

George Washington was the leader of the Continental Army. His older half brother, Lawrence, was a Loyalist. [pg. 29]

How could you tell who was a Patriot?

...the number 13 was important to the Patriots because there were thirteen colonies. It was often used as a signal. Some women wore their hair in thirteen curls as a sign of support for the Patriots. [pg. 38]

What useful things were invented during the war?

David Bushnell made the Turtle, an early submarine. Looking like a large oak barrel, it moved when a propeller was turned by hand. Bushnell presented it to the Patriots as a way to put bombs on British warships. Ezra Lee made the first try, but he couldn't get the bomb to stick to the ship. Lee had to work fast – there was only enough air for thirty minutes underwater. The Turtle never worked like Bushnell hoped, but he built underwater mines that made the British navy very nervous. [pg. 72]

Did you know?

"A Declaration of Dependence was written late in 1776 and signed by seven hundred Loyalists. This only made the Patriots more angry." [pg. 36]

The word "cowboy" was first used to name pro-British outlaws. They used cowbells to attract people and then robbed them or stole animals from farmers and sold them to the British army. [pg. 73]

Cautions.

In two pictures, due to Colonial necklines, women's cleavage is shown. However, it is very hazy (basically just a line).

Ms. Moore gives none of the religious reasons behind the war, mentioning only taxation without representation as its cause.

Conclusion. An excellent resource for young children.

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Shannon McGee says

I find if you are like me and do not remember the history that was studied in school when you were younger that picking up a kids book on history helps you better understand what you are learning about.

This written very simply and broken up in lite paragraphs. It gives an overview of what happened during the American Revolution for the Patriots and Loyalists. It also speaks a little about certain people who became better known because of American Revolution from both sides. Although that is not that much known about Loyalists according to the book but just enough to be interesting information in this.

It was interesting to learn both sides of the coin and how different times and people where and how they changed during and after. Overall I give it a thumbs up.

Heather says

I like the question and answer format. The questions cover both the everyday life aspect as well as things more specific to the war. I especially liked that this book presented the side of the Loyalists fairly, explaining their thinking and the ways that they were unfairly treated by many Patriots, both during and after the revolution. It's not that the book was pro-Loyalist or "anti-American." It presented both sides. Very nicely done.

Rbettermann says

This historical book is a great addition to bring along with a history lesson about life before and during the Revolution. It sections are set up as questions and each is answered with a short and accurate description. This book is illustrated by Daniel O'Leary. The text can be an addition to a history lesson or used by itself. I would use this for grades 2-4.

Cassandra Portee says

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. I love reading about the lives of the people during the American Revolution period. There was a wealth of information about the daily lives of the Patriots and Loyalists I did not know. This book went into greater details of explaining the pros and cons of which side your family was on.

Nikki Wilson says

I'm glad they updated this book to include more information about the Loyalists and included important men and women in the back. The only critique I'd make is that I'd like more information about the Native Americans and enslaved people and their contributions on both sides, in a way in which children can comprehend.
