

Name _____

Life in the Colonies During the War

Read the following passage carefully:

While the American Revolution is often remembered for famous battles and powerful leaders, much of the war's story took place far from the battlefield. Life in the thirteen colonies was deeply affected by the ongoing conflict. Farmers, shopkeepers, enslaved people, women, and children all faced uncertainty, fear, and hardship.

Many civilians had to choose sides. Some colonists remained loyal to Britain, known as **Loyalists**, and faced suspicion or even violence from their neighbors. Others joined the Patriot cause, offering supplies, money, or even turning their homes into makeshift hospitals. Communities were often divided, with families torn apart by political beliefs.

Women played important roles during the war. While men fought, women managed farms, ran businesses, and organized boycotts of British goods. Some women, like **Molly Pitcher**, brought water and supplies to soldiers on the battlefield. Others served as spies, risking their lives to pass messages to the Continental Army.

The war also impacted enslaved African Americans. Both the British and the Patriots offered freedom to enslaved people in exchange for military service. Thousands took the risk, hoping for liberty, but many were returned to slavery after the war.

Life during the American Revolution was marked by uncertainty and courage. Though not all stories made it into the history books, ordinary people played extraordinary roles in the fight for independence.

Answer the following questions:

- What is the main idea of the passage?**
 - Only battles mattered during the American Revolution
 - Civilian life was not affected by the war
 - Ordinary people played key roles in the American Revolution
 - The war was won by Loyalists and enslaved people
- What were some challenges civilians faced during the war?** (List at least two)
- What does the term "Loyalist" refer to in the context of the American Revolution?**
- How did women contribute to the Patriot cause during the war?** (Give two examples from the text)
- Why did some enslaved people join the war, and what risks did they take?**
- Based on the passage, do you think it was easy for colonists to stay neutral during the war? Why or why not?** (Answer in 2–3 sentences.)

