

Name _____ Date _____

How United and Free are the States of America?

After studying the American Revolution in depth, you understand that the patriots were fighting for individual freedom. In the Declaration of Independence the founders promised the American people they would protect their “unalienable rights” such as “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” The question we are going to explore now is: Did the Patriots succeed in keeping their promise of freedom? Did the Revolutionary War result in one truly united country or free but still separate citizens of individual states? As a class, we will debate these questions. To do this, each of you will research both sides of the argument to develop a strong argument with historical facts as supporting evidence.

Pre-Thinking:

1. What is the definition of the word “united”?
2. What is the definition of the word “freedom”?
3. What freedoms did the Patriots promise in their new country?
4. Before you do any research, what is your opinion on the issue? Do you think the Patriots succeeded in creating a united and free country? Why or why not?

Argument #2: The Patriots succeeded in separating from England but they did not unite the states entirely or uphold their promise of freedom for all.

1. In what ways did life in North America stay the same after the American Revolution?
Back up your argument with at least 3 historical pieces of evidence.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. What freedoms did the Articles of Confederation and the original version of our Constitution leave out?
3. In what ways have the Patriot's ideals of freedom been left out throughout history?
4. In what ways is our country still divided today despite the American Revolution?

