

Joseph and Mary Brant



Mohawk brother and sister, Joseph and Mary Brant were the stepchildren of an important Mohawk chief. They grew up in a village in the Mohawk Valley of New York, but they spent a lot of time with Europeans and ended up adopting many of their ways. During the Revolutionary War, Joseph and Mary became ambassadors of the Iroquois, providing a bridge between the Iroquois and the British. While looking out for the interests of the Mohawk people, they used their influence within the Iroquois Confederacy to build support for the British in their war with the American rebels.



Older sister Mary, was born Konwatsi' Tsiaienni in 1736. In 1759, Mary married Sir William Johnson, the British Superintendent of Indian Affairs in New York. She had eight children with him before he died in 1774.

Joseph was born Thayendanegea in 1743. Mary's husband William arranged for him to go to school where he learned English and was trained as an interpreter. Because of this, Joseph felt a close connection to the British.

When the war broke out, Joseph was afraid that if the American rebels won, the Iroquois would lose their land. He convinced the Mohawk and some of the other Iroquois Confederacy to fight with the British. When the American rebels won the war, they did indeed take over the homeland of the Mohawk. Because of their loyalty to the British, they lost everything and were forced into exile.

In the aftermath of the war, the British did nothing to protect the First Nations Loyalists that had fought beside them. The people were angry and felt betrayed by the British and the Brants. Joseph finally persuaded the British to give them some land in Québec. The Six Nations Reserve was about 2,750 square kilometres along both sides of the Grand River. It was supposed to be Six Nations land forever. Over time sections of the reserve have been slowly taken away. Today, only about one-tenth of the original reserve remains.



Johnson Hall, Mary Brant's home from 1763-1774

Name _____



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Rewrite the following sentences to make them true.

1. Mary Brant, the younger sister of Joseph, married a Mohawk chief.

2. Because of their loyalty to the rebels, the Mohawk were able to keep their homeland.

3. The British protected the First Nations Loyalists after the war.

Answer the following questions.

4. Why did Joseph feel a close connection to the British?

5. What did the Brants do for the British during the Revolutionary War?

6. How did Joseph help First Nations Loyalists after the war?

7. What happened to the Six Nations Reserve over time?



Name _____

Joseph and Mary Brant

Use the information pages, library resources, and the internet to help you complete your answers.

1. Joseph and Mary Brant were Mohawks who learned and practised European ways. Why would that be difficult in those times? Explain your thinking.

2. Explain how Joseph and Mary Brant served the interests of:

a) the British

b) the Iroquois

3. “It was supposed to be Six Nations land forever. Over time, sections of the reserve have been slowly taken away. Today, only about one-tenth of the original land remains”. In your opinion, how could this land have been taken away from the Six Nations?

Is there any reason that could justify taking it? Explain.

How would you compensate the Six Nations for the loss of their land?

Loyalists Arrive in Nova Scotia



Throughout the course of the war, a steady stream of Loyalists set sail from New York City for the shores of Nova Scotia. It was a mixed bag of people, ranging from well-educated professionals to minority religious groups. The majority of Black Loyalists sought their freedom by travelling to Nova Scotia. The main thing this varied group had in common was the need to escape persecution by the Patriots. Because of their loyalty to Britain, they needed a safe place to live.

What the Loyalists encountered when they arrived in Nova Scotia was very discouraging. They stepped off the boats into a dense wilderness. They had to live in tents as the land they were promised was slowly granted to them. The British supplied them with a two-year supply of food, a one-year's supply of clothing plus tools and supplies to clear their piece of land and build a home. Some people got large sections of good land others received poor quality land that was difficult to farm. Only about a third of the Black Loyalists received any land at all.

The American Loyalists had left their well-established homes and farms to face tremendous hardship as they tried to build a new life. At times, many people faced starvation due to crop failures, severe winters, and the lack of any help from the British.

FAST FACT

More than 30,000 Loyalists migrated to Nova Scotia.



Name _____

Loyalists Arrive in Nova Scotia

Use the information pages, library resources, and the internet to help you complete your answers.

1. Describe the type of people who made the journey to Nova Scotia.

2. The American Loyalists had left a good life to come to settle in Nova Scotia.

Why would they be willing to do that?

3. Refer to the picture showing the arrival of the Loyalists.

What will they need to do to build a new life here?



Loyalist Impact on Nova Scotia

Many Loyalists were very dissatisfied with the amount of support they were getting from the established government of Nova Scotia. They had sacrificed a lot to support the British crown but their needs were not being represented in the legislature and assemblies. The original settlers dominated the government. Coming from the Thirteen Colonies, the Loyalists were used to being more involved in the political process. In Nova Scotia their voice was not being heard.

As the unrest grew, the British government decided to take action. In 1784, they divided Nova Scotia and created the colonies of New Brunswick and Cape Breton Island. The Loyalists were happy about this. Large numbers of them moved to these areas. In these new colonies, they were allowed to be involved in elected assemblies and had more control over their lives.

Over time, the Loyalists helped build the economy through agriculture and trade. They established new cities. The varied backgrounds and skills of the Loyalist helped to define the character of this newly formed society.

The Division of Nova Scotia – 1784

