

Time Travel Activity: The Polegreen Meeting House

Directions: Pretend you lived in Hanover County in the 1700s! This activity will take your mind back to what life was like back at that time. After you read each paragraph, you will have a chance to make decisions about things that happened back then. At the end, you will find out what really happened.

#1: Take your mind back to the 1750s when the only approved church for the colony of Virginia was the Church of England (also known as the Anglican Church). As a colonist, you paid taxes. Part of the taxes went to pay the ministers of the Church of England. Your family knows about a new minister in the county from a different religion. The Church of England will not allow other religions to build churches. Your family wants to find a way to listen to the new minister.

- What do you do?

#2: Now, travel to 1779. The patriots, those wishing to break away from England, have been fighting the American Revolution for four years. The patriots are fighting for their rights including the right to have representation in the government and to have fair taxes. Some colonists are also fighting for freedom of religion. You know that people who have not supported the Church of England have been beaten or even thrown in jail. As states write their own governments, people's rights are important issues. As a member of the House of Delegates to Virginia, these thoughts are on your mind as a document is written about people's religious rights. You are one of the writers of the document.

- What do you write about?
