



## Elementary

***Today you are going to read about Independence Day, a very important celebration in the United States of America.***

Source: [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)

Complete the text with the following words.

CHILDREN / CLOSED / PARK / UNITED STATES / BEACH / BARBECUE / FEDERAL HOLIDAY / SANDWICHES / OUTDOORS / SONGS / SIT / KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN / ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES / COLORED / THE FOUNDING FATHERS

In the United States, Independence Day (commonly known as "the Fourth of July", or "July the Fourth") is a 1. \_\_\_\_\_ celebrating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from Great Britain.

Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, picnics, baseball games, and various other public and private events celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the 2. \_\_\_\_\_.

Though the Fourth of July is iconic to Americans, some claim the date itself is somewhat arbitrary. New Englanders had been fighting Britain since April 1775. The first motion in the Continental Congress for independence was made on June 4, 1776. After hard debate, the Congress voted unanimously, but secretly, for independence from the 3. \_\_\_\_\_ on July 2. The Congress reworked the text of the Declaration until a little after eleven o'clock, July 4, when the twelve colonies voted for adoption and released a copy signed only by John Hancock, President of the Congress, to the printers. Not until August 2 would a fair printing be signed by the members of the Congress, but even that was kept secret to protect the members from British reprisals.

Independence Day, the only holiday that celebrates the United States, is a national holiday. Fourth of July celebrations often take place 4. \_\_\_\_\_. Independence Day is a federal holiday, so all non-essential federal institutions (like the postal service and federal courts) are 5. \_\_\_\_\_ on that day. Many politicians think it is important on this day to appear at a public event to praise the nation's heritage, society and people. Speeches and editorials may invoke American Revolutionary themes such as 6. \_\_\_\_\_, the Constitution, the Liberty Bell, and democratic principles such as liberty, freedom, equality under the law, inalienable rights, and representative government.

Families often mark the Fourth of July with a picnic or 7. \_\_\_\_\_, and take advantage of the long weekend or off-day to gather with relatives. Decorations generally are 8. \_\_\_\_\_ red, white, and blue due to the colors of the American Flag. Parades are often held in the morning, baseball games played and fireworks displays in public parks in the evening. Other traditions include face painting for 9. \_\_\_\_\_.

Independence Day fireworks are often accompanied by a pops orchestra playing patriotic 10. \_\_\_\_\_ such as "The Star-Spangled Banner", "God Bless America", "America the Beautiful", "My Country, Tis of Thee", "This Land Is Your Land". Outdoor barbecues and picnics are easy to prepare for the large number of people that often gather on the Fourth of July. Barbecues generally involve hamburgers and hot dogs.

The picnics are generally held in parks while waiting for fireworks, or at the 11. \_\_\_\_\_. They do not involve cooking meats, but 12. \_\_\_\_\_ such as peanut butter and jelly and tuna salad.

Beverages for these outdoor events generally include 2-liters of soda, chilled with ice and served in cups. 13. \_\_\_\_\_ include beer or kegs - participants may be asked to bring their own ("BYOB"). Traditional side dishes for a picnic or barbecue include potato salad, potato chips, vegetable tray, Jello salad, and perhaps baked beans or corn on the cob.



Guests at barbecues and picnics may 14. \_\_\_\_\_ at a picnic table or some other outdoor furniture. Picnics in a 15. \_\_\_\_\_ (especially where fireworks are held) often feature a blanket or towel set on the ground for participants to sit on.

## Glossary:

Arbitrary – önkényes  
Debate – vita  
Unanimously – egyhangúlag  
Release – kiad  
Reprisal – megtorlás  
Non-essential – nem létfontosságú  
Praise – dícsér, dicsőít  
Heritage – örökség  
Editorial – vezércikk  
Invoke – felidéz  
Principle – elv  
Liberty – szabadság  
Equality – egyenlőség  
Inalienable rights – elidegeníthetetlen jogok  
Take advantage of – kihasznál  
Off-day – szabadnap  
Gather with relatives – összejönni a rokonokkal  
Accompany – kísér  
Beverage – ital  
Side dish – köret  
Towel – törölköző  
Blanket - takaró  
Participant – résztvevő

*Now answer these questions.*

1. What do Americans celebrate on 4 July?
2. Why did they have to keep the Declaration of Independence in secret?
3. What do politicians do on this day?
4. What are the main topics of speeches and newspapers on this day?
5. What are the traditional colors of this celebration?
6. What do children do on this day?
7. What do they sing on this day?
8. What do they eat on this day?
9. Where do they have their meals?
10. What is BYOB?
11. What is BBQ?



## Intermediate

**Today you are going to read about Independence Day, a very important celebration in the United States of America.**

Source: <http://usinfo.state.gov>

Complete the text with the following words.

SYMBOLIZED / SPONSORED / EXTENDED WEEKEND / PATRIOTIC / CIVIC / CONSTRUCTION / SPEECHES / BARBEQUES / FOUNDING FATHER / BIRTHPLACE

U.S. Independence Day a Civic and Social Event

Americans celebrate July 4, 1776, adoption of Declaration of Independence

Washington -- The United States celebrates its Independence Day on July 4, a day of 1. \_\_\_\_\_ celebration and family events throughout the country. In the words of 2. \_\_\_\_\_ John Adams, the holiday would be "the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, ... . It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

The holiday is a major civic occasion, with roots deep in the Anglo-American tradition of political freedom.

Community fireworks displays are common. In New York City, Macy's department store for 30 years has 3. \_\_\_\_\_ a July 4 fireworks display. In 2005, the 30-minute show featured 35,000 shells launched from seven barges afloat in the East River and in New York Harbor. The Associated Press estimated that more than 3 million watched in person. The event also has been televised nationally in recent years.

"The Fourth" is a family celebration. Picnics and 4. \_\_\_\_\_ are common. July is summer in the United States, and millions of Americans escape the heat at beaches and other vacation spots. Independence Day is not among the legal holidays fixed on a Monday or Friday, but many employees use vacation time to create an 5. \_\_\_\_\_, as in 2006, when the holiday occurs on a Tuesday.

6. \_\_\_\_\_ of important public works sometimes begins on July 4. The Erie Canal, Washington Monument and Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (the nation's first) all broke ground on Independence Day. The date reflects a desire symbolically to stamp these projects as true civic improvements.

The Fourth of July is a time when elected officials and other public figures often give 7. \_\_\_\_\_ extolling American traditions and values.

Independence Day has provided some of this nation's most stirring words of freedom. In 1788, Founding Father James Wilson addressed a Philadelphia gathering that was possibly the largest July 4 celebration in the young nation's history. He exhorted his fellow citizens to ratify the proposed Constitution. "What is the object exhibited to our contemplation?" he asked. "A WHOLE PEOPLE exercising its first and greatest power -- performing an act of SOVEREIGNTY, ORIGINAL and UNLIMITED...."

On July 4, 1852, the black journalist and abolitionist Frederick Douglass decried the evils of slavery, still prevalent in the American South at that time, but identified forces "drawing encouragement from the Declaration of Independence, the great principles it contains, and the genius of American Institutions in operation" that "must inevitably work the downfall of slavery."

Ninety years later, near the darkest moments of World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt reminded the nation that July 4 8. \_\_\_\_\_ "the democratic freedom which our citizens claim as their precious birthright:" For the "weary, hungry, unequipped Army of the American Revolution," he continued: "the Fourth of July was a tonic of hope and inspiration. So is it now.... The tough, grim men who fight for freedom in this dark hour take heart in its message -- the assurance of the right to liberty under God -- for all peoples and races and groups and nations, everywhere in the world.



On July 4, 2001, President George W. Bush spoke outside Independence Hall, Philadelphia, 9. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Declaration of Independence. That document, he said, continues to represent "the standard to which we hold others, and the standard by which we measure ourselves. Our greatest achievements have come when we have lived up to these ideals. Our greatest tragedies have come when we have failed to uphold them."

Across the nation, 10. \_\_\_\_\_ leaders of even the most humble station echo these words, and their audiences give thanks for the freedom and liberties that the founding generation won for all Americans.

*Decide if these statements are true or false.*

1. Even the Founding Fathers wanted this day to be a day of huge festivals and celebrations.
2. Fireworks are completely banned on this day.
3. Independence Day is a family holiday, which means that relatives gather for a picnic or BBQ.
4. Independence Day means only one day off work.
5. Important public works are usually launched on this day.
6. Politicians and public figures are important parts of this celebration.
7. George W. Bush's words are often echoed on this day, which is about standards and ideals and how much we manage or fail to meet these standards.

## Advanced

***Today you are going to read about Independence Day, a very important celebration in the United States of America.***

*Source: [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)*

*Complete the text with the following words.*

The United States Declaration of Independence was an 1. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Second Continental Congress, adopted on July 4, 1776, which declared that the Thirteen Colonies were independent of the Kingdom of Great Britain. The document, formally entitled The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America and written chiefly by Thomas Jefferson, explained the justifications for 2. \_\_\_\_\_ from the British crown, and was an expansion of Richard Henry Lee's Resolution (passed by Congress on July 2), which first proclaimed independence. An engrossed copy of the Declaration was signed by most of the delegates on August 2 and is now on 3. \_\_\_\_\_ in the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C.

The Declaration is considered to be a preceding founding document of the later formed United States of America, where July 4 is celebrated as Independence Day. At the time the Declaration was 4. \_\_\_\_\_, the American colonies were "united" in declaring their independence from Great Britain, but were not yet declaring themselves to be a single nation. That union would evolve and take shape during the next few years after the Declaration was issued.

President Abraham Lincoln succinctly explained the central importance of the Declaration to American history in his Gettysburg Address of 1863:

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created 5. \_\_\_\_\_."

As relations between Great Britain and its American colonies became increasingly strained, the Americans set up a shadow government in each colony, with a Continental Congress and Committees of Correspondence linking these shadow governments. As soon as fighting broke out in April 1775, these shadow governments took control of each colony and 6. \_\_\_\_\_ all the royal officials. That marked the beginning of the American Revolutionary War. Sentiment for outright independence grew rapidly in response to British actions; the options were clarified by Thomas Paine's pamphlet Common Sense, released in January 1776.



In June of 1776, a committee of the Second Continental Congress consisting of John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, Robert R. Livingston of New York, and Roger Sherman of Connecticut (the "7. \_\_\_\_\_"), was formed to draft a suitable declaration to frame this resolution. The committee decided that Jefferson would write the 8. \_\_\_\_\_, which he showed to Franklin and Adams. Prior to deciding on Jefferson, both Adams and Franklin turned down the offer, citing that if they wrote it people would read it with a biased eye. Franklin himself made at least 48 corrections. Jefferson then produced another copy incorporating these changes, and the committee presented this copy to the Continental Congress on June 28, 1776.

A formal declaration for independence was delayed on July 2, 1776, pursuant to the "Lee Resolution" presented by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia on June 7, 1776, which read (in part): "Resolved: That these united Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved."

The full Declaration was reworked somewhat in general session of the Continental Congress. Congress, meeting in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, finished revising Jefferson's draft statement on July 4, approved it, and sent it to a printer. At the 9. \_\_\_\_\_, Benjamin Franklin is quoted as having stated: "We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately," a play on words indicating that 10. \_\_\_\_\_ to stay united and succeed would risk being tried and executed, individually, for treason.

*What do these numbers refer to in the text?*

1. 13
2. 2 August
3. April 1775
4. January 1776
5. five
6. 48
7. 28 June, 1776