

Independence Day

Pre-reading

Questions:

- What do you know about Independence Day?
- When is it?

Definitions:

- Revolution – the overthrow of a government in order to set up a new government
- Declaration – a formal statement or announcement often in written form
- Festive – joyful and happy
- Canopy – a high covering



Reading

17 Independence Day is July 4th. Another name for this holiday is the Fourth of July. This national
39 holiday is an important one in the history of the United States. It is a day to remember and celebrate the first
Independence Day on July 4, 1776.

45 The Revolutionary War began in 1775. The 13 colonies wanted to separate from England. They wanted
60 their **independence**. The 13 colonies were angry with England. They were tired of paying taxes to King
77 George. They also wanted freedom to make laws.

86 In 1776, leaders from the 13 colonies met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They talked about freedom
101 from England. Thomas Jefferson wrote a paper about subjects of that meeting. This document was the
117 Declaration of Independence. It said the colonies were “free and independent states”. The leaders signed it
133 on July 4, 1776.

137 People in the 13 colonies were very happy about the Declaration of Independence. They made a lot of
155 noise with bells, drums, and guns. People today still make noise on Independence Day. Most people are in a
173 fun, festive mood!

177 Because the Fourth of July is a national holiday, most people do not go to work. Families and friends
196 get together outdoors for picnics and barbecues. A popular Fourth of July meal is grilled hamburgers and hot
213 dogs, potato salad, baked beans, potato chips, and watermelon. Some people also make red, white and blue
230 desserts.

232 You see **patriotic** colors everywhere on Independence Day. Many people put American flags outside
246 their homes or businesses. Some even fly small flags on their cars. Others wear shirts or hats with flags on
266 them. You may see some people wearing blue shirts with white stars or red and white striped shorts.

284 Fourth of July parades are a fun event for communities and families. Children like to see the fire trucks
303 and clowns. Adults shake hands with the politicians walking in the parade. Everyone likes to try and catch a
321 lot of candy and hear the bands play patriotic songs. Don’t forget to smile and wave at the queens riding on
342 the floats.

345 Independence Day evening is a time of beautiful fireworks. Fireworks create colorful canopies in the
360 sky along with loud noises. Many cities have fireworks displays. Trained staff **ignite** these fireworks. Cities
375 have safe fireworks for everyone to enjoy. In most states individuals cannot buy fireworks. Fireworks are
390 dangerous. People can get hurt trying to light and handle fireworks.

403 Independence Day is a holiday to think about freedom. It is a day to remember the Declaration of
421 Independence. It is also a festive time of food, fun, friends, and fireworks!

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Understanding

1. What does **independence** mean? _____

2. Why is Independence Day on July 4th? _____

3. How do people celebrate this holiday? _____

4. What does **patriotic** mean? _____

5. Why did the Revolutionary War take place? _____

6. What does the word **ignite** mean? _____

7. How many years have Americans celebrated Independence Day? _____

Writing

Option A: What did you learn about Independence Day?

Option B: What do you do on this holiday?
