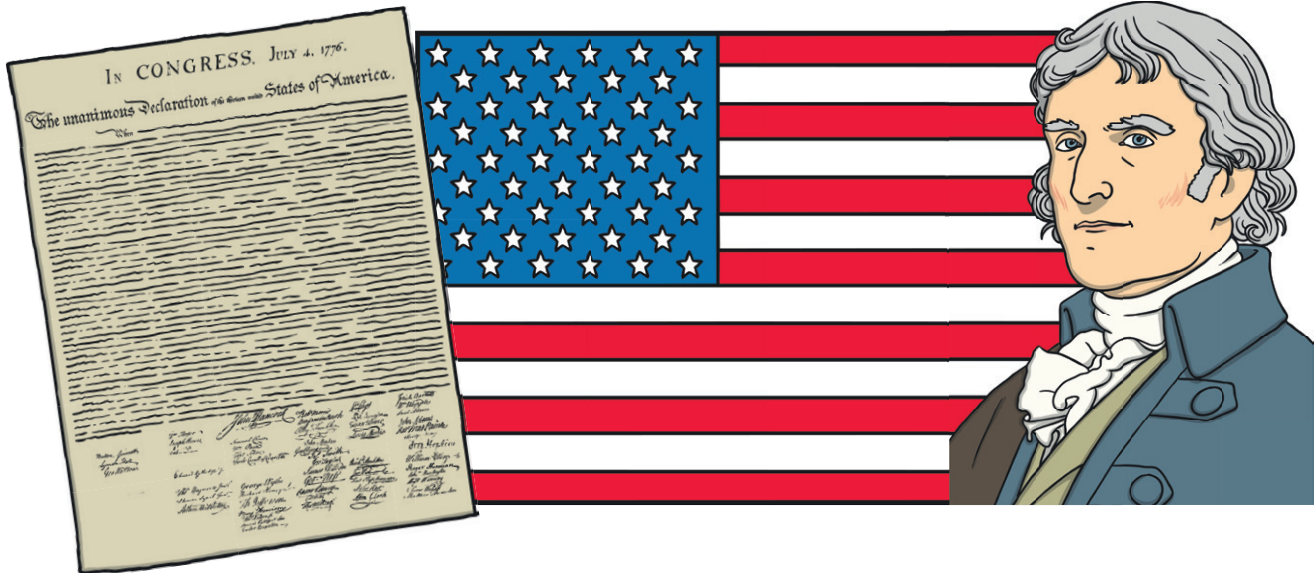


# Independence Day

The fourth of July is known as Independence Day in the United States of America. It celebrates a time when colonial leaders agreed that the colonies should form a new nation. The leaders wrote the Declaration of Independence.



The original 13 American Colonies were part of the British Empire. Colonists, people who lived in the colonies, were frustrated because they felt they had no voice in the British government. They were not able to express their needs and new laws and taxes were placed on them without the opinion of the colonists. The Revolutionary War began against the British Empire. A group of colonial leaders decided it would be best for the colonies to separate from the British Empire and become the United States of America.

The document that recorded the decision to separate from the British Empire is called the Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the declaration. It tells the reasons the colonists thought they should be allowed to become their own country. 56 leaders signed the document.

After many long battles, the Treaty of Paris was signed in order to end the American Revolutionary War. This peace treaty said that the British government would agree to see the thirteen colonies as their own independent nation, The United States of America. It was signed September 3rd, 1783.

Today, people in the United States typically celebrate Independence Day with fireworks, playing the National Anthem, parades and picnics. People gather together with friends and loved ones to honor this National Holiday together.

# Questions About Independence Day

1. How many people signed the Declaration of Independence?

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2. Which treaty ended the war?

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3. How many colonies were part of the United States when it was a new nation?

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4. How do people celebrate Independence Day?

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# Questions About Independence Day

## Answers

1. How many people signed the Declaration of Independence?

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2. Which treaty ended the war?

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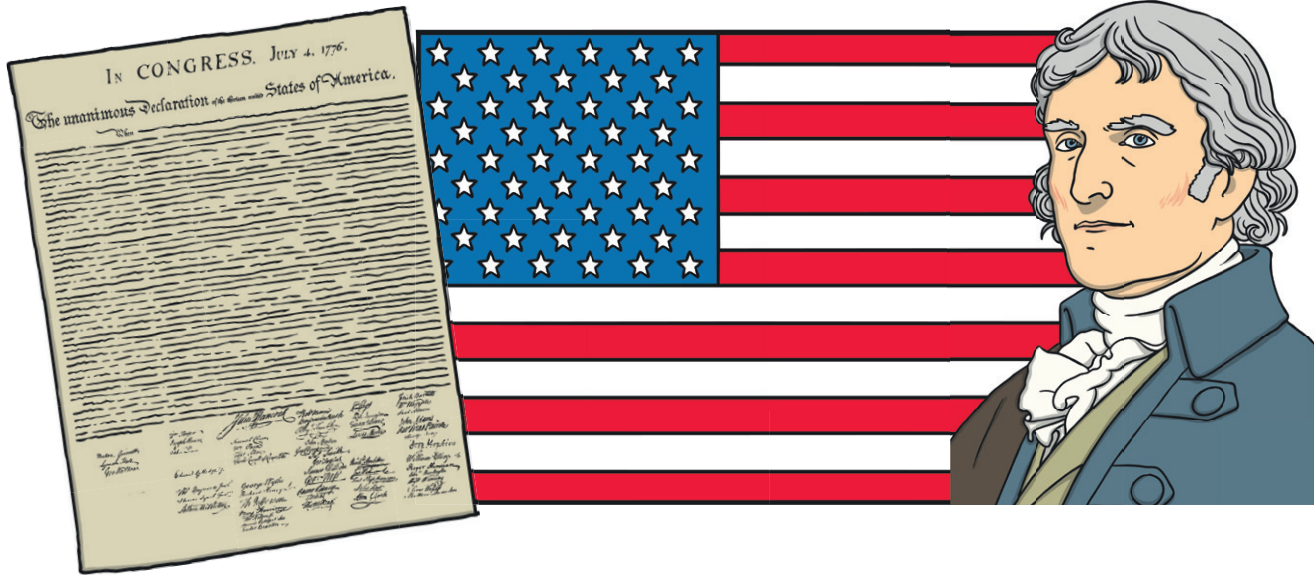
13

4. How do people celebrate Independence Day?

Various answers: fireworks, playing the National Anthem, parades, picnic, etc.

# Independence Day

The fourth of July is known as Independence Day in the United States of America. It celebrates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress in 1776.



The original 13 American Colonies were part of the British Empire. Colonists, people who lived in the colonies, were frustrated because they felt they had no representation in the British Parliament. They felt that the government could make decisions, impose taxes and create laws for the colonists without the colonists input. The Revolutionary War began against the British Empire. A group of colonial leaders decided it would be best for the colonies to separate from the British Empire and become an independent nation.

The document that recorded the decision to separate from the British Empire is called the Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson wrote the original draft of the declaration. It lists the ways the colonies felt wronged by the King and makes a case for becoming an independent nation. 56 leaders signed the document.

After many long battles, the Treaty of Paris was signed in order to end the American Revolutionary War. This peace treaty said that the British government would recognize the thirteen colonies as their own independent nation, The United States of America. It was signed September 3rd, 1783.

Today, people in the United States typically celebrate Independence Day with fireworks, playing the National Anthem, and picnics. People gather together with friends and loved ones to honor this National Holiday together.

# Questions About Independence Day

1. What does the word “colonists” mean?

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2. Who wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence?

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3. Why do you think Independence Day is celebrated July 4th, instead of September 3rd?

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4. How do people celebrate Independence Day?

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# Questions About Independence Day

## Answers

1. What does the word “colonists” mean?

People who lived in the 13 colonies

2. Who wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence?

Thomas Jefferson

3. Why do you think Independence Day is celebrated July 4th, instead of September 3rd?

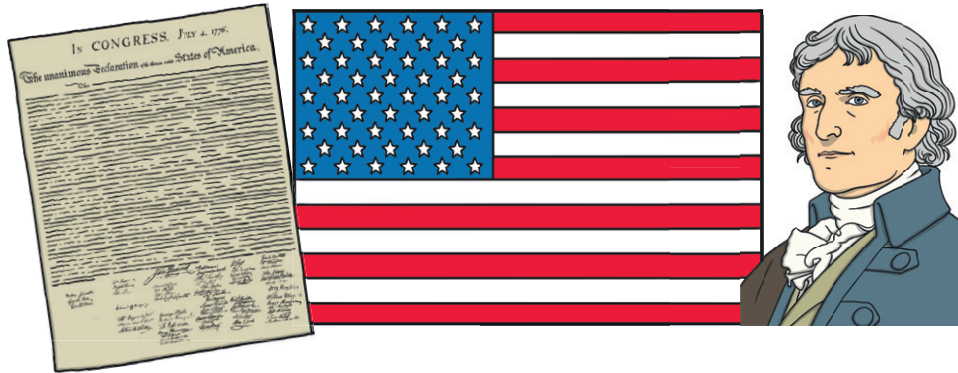
The colonies declared independence when the declaration was signed: July 4th.

4. How do people celebrate Independence Day?

Various answers: fireworks, playing the National Anthem, parades, picnic, etc.

# Independence Day

The fourth of July is known as Independence Day in the United States of America. It celebrates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress in 1776.



The original 13 American Colonies were part of the British Empire. Colonists, people who lived in the colonies, were frustrated because they felt they had no representation in the British Parliament. They felt that the government could make decisions, impose taxes and create laws for the colonists without the colonists input. An example of this is the Tea Act. The act stated that the colonists could only buy tea from one particular trading company. This would help British business, but be very costly for the colonists. The colonists' view was not represented in the decision. To oppose the Tea Act, the colonists refused to unload the tea from the ships when it came to the colonies, and instead dumped it in the harbor. This became known as the Boston Tea Party. Shortly after this time, the Revolutionary War began against the British Empire. A group of colonial leaders decided it would be best for the colonies to secede from the British Empire and become an independent nation.

The document that recorded the decision to separate from the British Empire is called the Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson wrote the original draft of the declaration. It lists the ways the colonies felt wronged by the King and makes a case for becoming an independent nation. The Second Continental Congress edited the document, agreed to its terms, and signed it into action. 56 leaders signed the document.

After many long battles, the Treaty of Paris was signed in order to end the American Revolutionary War. This peace treaty said that the British government would recognize the thirteen colonies as their own independent nation, The United States of America. It also made provision for westward expansion of the United States. The Treaty of Paris was signed September 3rd, 1783.

Today, people in the United States typically celebrate Independence Day with fireworks, playing the National Anthem, and picnics. People gather together with friends and loved ones to honor this National Holiday together.

# Questions About Independence Day

1. What does the word “secede” mean?

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2. When was the Treaty of Paris signed?

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3. Using evidence from the text, explain why the colonists decided writing the Declaration of Independence was justified.

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4. How do you celebrate Independence Day?

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# Questions About Independence Day

## Answers

1. What does the word “secede” mean?

To separate from

2. When was the Treaty of Paris signed?

September 3rd, 1783

3. Using evidence from the text, explain why the colonists decided writing the Declaration of Independence was justified.

Any reference to the following:

The colonists felt unrepresented in the government, and believed that the best way to be represented was to form a new government and new nation. An example from the text is when the colonists dumped tea in the harbor during the Boston Tea Party, to oppose the Tea Act.

1. How do people celebrate Independence Day?

Various answers: fireworks, cookout, picnic, parade, etc.