

Independence Day is a celebration that occurs annually celebrating the anniversary of the nation's independent statehood. In the United States, Independence Day occurs on July 4th and is also known as The 4th of July. On July 4th, 1776 the United States declared independence from Great Britain.

The 4th of July



In school we are all taught about the importance of the Fourth of July and why we celebrate it. America celebrates July 4 as Independence Day because it was on July 4, 1776, that members of the Second Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, adopted the final draft of the Declaration of Independence. Following its adoption, the Declaration was read to the public in various American cities. Whenever they heard it, patriots erupted in cheers and celebrations. Today Americans celebrate that freedom and independence with barbecues, picnics, and family gatherings. Here are some other interesting facts about Fourth of July celebrations and things surrounding this important day in history.

- The first American Flag was sewn by Betsy Ross in its traditional red, white and blue colors.
- In 1846 the Liberty Bell could not be rung anymore because of the famous crack.
- The American Bald Eagle has been a national symbol of the USA since 1782.
- Geographically, the United States is the world's

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This national holiday was first adopted by the Continental Congress. As part of the celebration, many people partake in fireworks, family reunions, barbecues, picnics, concerts, baseball games and parades.

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third largest country after Russia and Canada.

- The 13 stripes on the US flag represent the original colonies - the 50 stars represent the 50 states.
- The National Anthem of the United States is The Star-Spangled Banner
- Calvin Coolidge was the only president to be born on the Fourth Of July
- John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Monroe all died on the Fourth of July,
- The parades, music and fireworks so closely linked with the America's Fourth of July observances are actually common ways to celebrate independence. During the month of July, America, Canada, France and the Bahamas all observe their independence holidays with lively parades and music.

Many people hang flags in honor of this celebration, but did you know that the United States Flag Code stipulates that as the symbol of a living country, the flag is considered in itself a living thing and should be properly displayed and cared for. The code outlines the proper ways to display the American flag. There are actually more than thirty rules and regulations as to where, how and when the flag should be displayed. Here are just a few:

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- Raise the flag briskly. Lower it ceremoniously.
- Never allow the flag to touch the ground or floor.
- Do not fly the flag in bad weather, unless it is an all-weather flag.
- The flag should always be allowed to fall free.
- The flag should never be used to carry, store, or deliver anything.
- Never fly the flag upside down except to signal an emergency.
- The flag can only be flown at night if properly illuminated. Otherwise, it should only be flown from sunrise to sunset.

John Adams wrote that the Fourth of July "...ought to be celebrated by pomp and

parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other..." And that's what we do each year on the Fourth of July.