



## History of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July



### Why We Celebrate 4<sup>th</sup> of July

1 The Fourth of July is also known as Independence Day. We celebrate this holiday because it is the day America got its independence from a king in a country called Britain. This day represents the birthday of our nation.

### The First July 4<sup>th</sup>

2 In 1776, Americans decided they wanted to be a free country! The people in America were tired of being treated unfairly by the government in Britain. They thought they were paying too much money in taxes. They were also upset because they had no right to vote on laws that were important to them. Americans tried to come to an agreement with Britain, but they could not reach a decision. The people decided to cut all ties with Britain.

3 Thomas Jefferson and his team came together to write the Declaration of Independence. This gave Americans the freedom to govern themselves. On July 4, 1776, the team of men came together in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to sign it. John Hancock was the first person to write his signature on it. This marked the first Fourth of July. It was the creation of the United States of America!



## The First Celebration

4 After the men signed the Declaration of Independence, the American people came together to celebrate. They were excited about their freedom from Britain. In the streets of Philadelphia, bands played and bells rang. The news quickly spread to other towns. They held big celebrations too. Our freedom is why we still celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and it is celebrated all across the country today!

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## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebrations



5 Every summer, people in our country gather together to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. We celebrate this holiday because it is the day we gained our independence from Britain. The Declaration of Independence was written to proclaim our freedom. A group of men signed it on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776, and that became the birthday of the United States of America.

6 John Adams was one of the men who signed the declaration. Afterward, he made a statement to his wife in a letter saying, “This day will be the most memorable in the history of America.” Today, we still honor this day with celebrations all over the country.

### **Red, White, and Blue**

7 On this day, Americans pay tribute to our country. They do so by displaying the patriotic colors of our nation. People celebrate by wearing red, white, and blue. Homes and businesses proudly fly the American flag. People often decorate their houses and invite loved ones over for barbeques.

### **Parades and Ceremonies**

8 Many cities hold parades to honor this holiday. Our nation’s capital is in Washington, D.C. It has one of the largest parades in the country. People line the

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streets to watch a convoy of bands, floats, and entertainers march by. Everyone cheers, claps their hands, and waves their flags as each new act comes along.

9 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is where the Declaration of Independence was signed. The city of Philadelphia holds the historic Celebration of Freedom Ceremony. During this ceremony, people gather at Independence Hall. They listen to inspirational music and learn about the history of America. The ceremony ends with a reading of the Declaration of Independence.

### **Fireworks**

10 People can celebrate the 4th of July anywhere in the country. Wherever you are, the day will end with a beautiful fireworks display. This has been a tradition in our country for hundreds of years. As the sun goes down and it becomes dark, families and friends come together to watch the colors explode in the sky. This custom helps make this day one of the most memorable every year.



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