

July 4- -Independence Day

Source: <http://www.theholidayspot.com>, <http://homeschooling.about.com>

1 Match the words with their definition on the right.

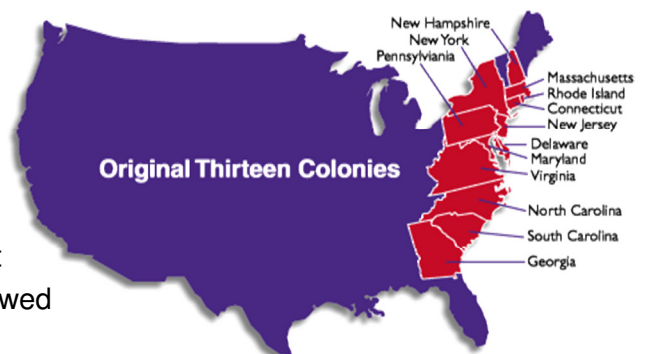
1	settlement	-(n)	B	loyalty or commitment (often to a cause or country)
2	absorb	-(v)	C	to say something more than is true
3	exaggerate	-(v)	D	to pour sg. in big quantity
4	levy	-(v)	F	to force upon by authority
5	massacre	-(n)	G	something regrettable; something which causes grief
6	impose	-(v)	H	to charge money and collect, especially taxes
7	debate	-(v)	I	not being loyal to a king
8	allegiance	-(n)	J	places where people live, e.g. towns, villages
9	treasonous	-(a)	K	to kill as a punishment
10	dump	-(v)	L	to take into one's self, integrate
11	execute	-(v)	M	to discuss a disagreement
12	grievances	-(n)	N	the killing of many people

2 Find out about Independence Day by reading the following text.

Around the seventeenth century the new and largely empty continent of America was peopled mainly from West Europe. There were **settlements** of the British, the Dutch, the French and the Spanish in various parts of North America. But the British ones **absorbed** the others.

The British **colonies** grew in number. By 1732 there were 13 such. They had their own governments under governors sent out by the British monarchs.

By the middle of the 1700s, the 13 colonies were finding it difficult to be ruled by a king 3,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean. They were tired of the taxes **imposed** upon them. But independence was a gradual and painful process. The colonists could not forget that they were British citizens and that they owed **allegiance** to King George III.



A "**tea party**" and a "**massacre**" were two events that hurried destiny. Along with general unrest these events united the colonists.

In 1767 a tea company in India, owned by England, was losing money. To save the company, England **levied** a tax on tea sold in the colonies in 1773. Partly as a joke, Samuel Adams and other Bostonians dressed up as Indians and **dumped** a cargo of the India Company Tea into the Massachusetts Bay. King George III did not think it was funny, nor did he lift the tax on tea.

In the Boston harbor, British soldiers were stoned by colonists who thought the soldiers had been sent to watch them. The soldiers fired into the crowd and killed a few citizens. The colonists **exaggerated** the number killed and called it a **massacre**.

Virginia took the first step toward independence by setting up a committee to represent the colonies. This First Continental Congress met in September of 1774. They drew up a list of **grievances** against the crown which became the first draft of a document that would formally separate the colonies from England. George Washington took command of the Continental Army and began fighting the British in Massachusetts. For the next eight years, colonists fought in the **Revolutionary War**.

In the meantime, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on July 2, 1776, the Second Continental Congress **debated** a second draft of the list of **grievances**, and John Hancock, the president of the Second Continental Congress, was the first to sign. The document, called the **Declaration of Independence**, was **treasonous** against the crown and the fifty-six men who signed it were in danger of being **executed**.



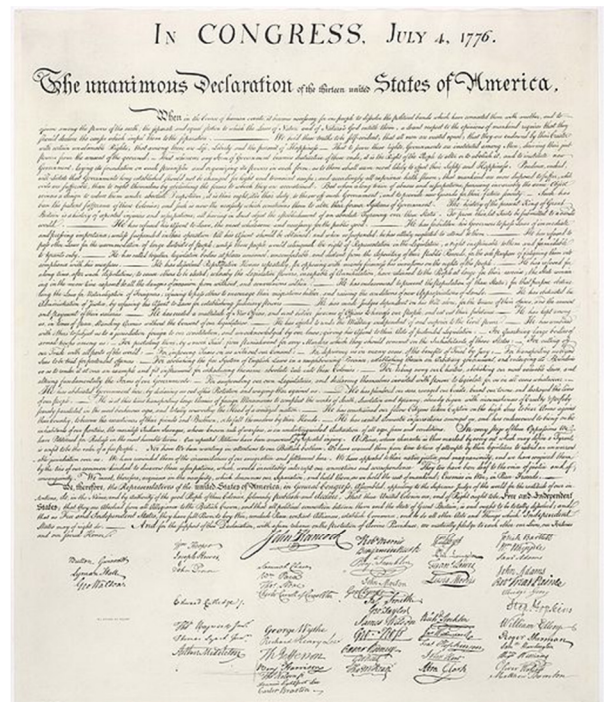
Independence Day is celebrated on July 4 because that is the day when the Continental Congress adopted the final draft of the Declaration of Independence.

The next year, in Philadelphia, bells rang and ships fired guns, candles and firecrackers were lighted. But the **War of Independence** dragged on until 1783, and in that year, Independence Day was made an official holiday. 1941 Congress declared 4th of July a federal holiday.

The second sentence, a sweeping **statement of human rights** says:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

This sentence has been called "one of the best-known sentences in the English language" and "the most potent and consequential words in American history".



3 Vocabulary

1. He made _____ actions and helped his country's enemies.
2. He felt _____ to his country's flag.
3. There was a short _____ about what movie to see.
4. He was _____ for refusing to pay the criminal gangs.
5. They discovered the remains of an early Anglo-Saxon _____ .
6. A new tax was _____ on cigarettes.
7. The U.S _____ immigrants from all over the world.
8. He filed _____ with the management.
9. 150,000 tons of waste are _____ annually into the sea.
10. There was a _____ when the soldiers shot the protesting workers.
11. The government _____ a tax on things made in other countries.
12. He _____ the size of the fish he caught.



4 Word search: look for the given words (in any direction!).

- Independence Day
- 4th of July
- fireworks
- picnics
- barbeque
- hotdogs
- parades
- John Hancock
- colonies
- freedom
- flag
- England
- taxes
- tea party
- king

K	D	Y	V	C	U	M	O	D	E	E	R	F	R	P
X	M	A	F	O	W	W	S	G	O	D	T	O	H	A
Y	O	D	I	L	U	N	T	Y	X	S	B	G	H	R
X	C	E	T	O	G	E	A	H	C	F	D	V	J	A
D	W	C	J	N	M	H	X	X	T	V	S	Z	M	D
T	X	N	N	I	W	L	E	L	T	L	O	P	F	E
E	U	E	C	E	E	A	S	E	W	N	F	U	L	S
A	C	D	I	S	L	S	K	R	O	W	E	R	I	F
P	Q	N	Y	L	U	J	F	O	H	T	G	M	W	L
A	E	E	O	M	S	O	X	L	B	Z	F	T	Y	G
R	F	P	N	T	G	V	J	Z	H	J	K	L	S	Q
T	A	E	U	B	A	R	B	E	Q	U	E	F	A	U
Y	K	D	J	O	H	N	H	A	N	C	O	C	K	G
G	D	N	A	L	G	N	E	P	I	C	N	I	C	S
C	Y	I	L	P	C	T	G	N	I	K	Z	O	R	J

5 Quiz

1. What country did the 13 colonies originally belong to?
 - a. England
 - b. Germany
 - c. America
2. Who did the colonists owe allegiance to?
 - a. King George I
 - b. King George II
 - c. King George III
3. Why did the Boston Tea Party take place?
 - a. To get rid of excess tea
 - b. To protest British tax policies
 - c. To win the support of the colonists
4. What war did the colonists fight the British?
 - a. The Civil War
 - b. The Revolutionary War
 - c. The War of 1812
5. Who was the first to sign the document presented by The Second Continental Congress?
 - a. Abraham Lincoln
 - b. John Hancock
 - c. George Washington
6. What was this document called?
 - a. The Constitution
 - b. The Declaration of Independence
 - c. The Bill of Rights
7. When did the Continental Congress actually pass a resolution of Independence?
 - a. July 1
 - b. July 2
 - c. July 3
8. Why is Independence Day celebrated on July 4?
 - a. that is when the tea party took place
 - b. that is when the Continental Congress adopted the final draft of the Declaration of Independence
 - c. that is when the Revolutionary War ended giving the colonies their freedom



6 A patriotic song: America the Beautiful

"O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!"

