



**Happy 4th
of July!**

Fourth of July

READING: Independence Day-Fourth of July

Independence Day is celebrated on July 4th by Americans all over the world. It is a federal holiday, so most Americans don't have to go to work. After having picnics and barbecues throughout the day, Americans light up the night skies with fireworks. On July 4th, Americans demonstrate their **patriotism**. They are proud of their country and their freedom.

Did you know that July 2nd, 1776 was the true date of America's **independence** from Great Britain? This is the day the 13 **colonies** legally separated. The Declaration of Independence wasn't finalized until July 4th. The document was finalized that day, but was it signed? Many historians say the Declaration of Independence wasn't signed until August 2. Guess what *did* happen on July 4th? John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on that date. They were the second and third president, and both helped **draft** the constitution. Both presidents died exactly 50 years later in 1826.

What did the Declaration of Independence say? It stated that all men had the right to life, **liberty** and the **pursuit** of happiness. It also said that people should be able to choose their own government. If a government becomes abusive, the people should have the right to choose a new leader. The document included a long list of accusations against the King of England. For example, it accused the King of **imposing** unfair taxes and of **abandoning** his people during times of conflict. The document stated that all ties of **allegiance** to the British Crown would be cut.

Have you heard of the phrase, "sign your John Hancock"? This phrase means "give me your **signature**". John Hancock's signature was the largest one on the Declaration of Independence. His name is now **synonymous** with the word signature.

On Independence Day, people sing "The Star-Spangled Banner". The American flag is displayed in homes and businesses in all 50 states. At noon on July 4th, military bases salute each state by firing 50 gun shots. You can remember how many states there are by looking at the US flag. It has 50 stars in the blue rectangle, and 13 **alternating** red and white stripes. The stripes represent the original colonies. The flag doesn't use just **any old** shade of red or blue. The official colors on the flag are "Old Glory Red" and "Old Glory Blue". The term "Old Glory" is a nickname for the flag. On Independence Day, the flag waves high on flagpoles around the country. The flag is displayed at half-mast when the country is **in mourning**. For example, when a soldier or an important American figure dies, the flag is lowered to half-mast. Another word for half-mast is half-staff.

Approximately 2.5 million people lived in the US on July 4, 1776. In 2006, the US population hit 300 million.

READING COMPREHENSION

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner.

Then write the answers in the spaces below.

1. What is July 4th called in the US?

2. Why does the reading mention July 2nd?

3. What was significant about the deaths of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams?

4. According to the Declaration of Independence, Americans have the right to life, _____, and the pursuit of happiness? (*Can you find a **synonym** for this word that is used in the Declaration of Independence?*)

5. What is another word for signature, and why?

6. How many regions did America have at the time the Declaration of Independence was signed? How does this compare to America today?

7. Describe the American flag.

8. When does the American flag go down to half-staff?

VOCABULARY REVIEW

A. Match the words on the left with the correct meaning on the right.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. patriotism | a) devotion (strong love) to one's country |
| _____ 2. independence | b) the duty to honor and obey |
| _____ 3. colony | c) freedom |
| _____ 4. liberty | d) following a repeated back and forth pattern (black, white, black, white) |
| _____ 5. pursuit | e) the position of a flag part way down a flagpole |
| _____ 6. impose | f) the state or quality of having control over one's own affairs |
| _____ 7. abandon | g) to stop using or supporting |
| _____ 8. allegiance | h) the quality or type is unimportant |
| _____ 9. signature | i) a settled territory |
| _____ 10. synonymous | j) to put in place and force |
| _____ 11. alternating | k) a person's name written in his or her own handwriting |
| _____ 12. <i>any old</i> | l) the searching for something |
| _____ 13. half-mast | m) feeling sad after someone dies |
| _____ 14. in mourning | n) means the same |

B. Draw that word! You'll need a piece of paper. *Any old* paper will do!

- 1) Pick a number from 1-14. Write it down. Don't show anyone.
Now look at Exercise A. Choose the word that corresponds to your number and try to draw it. (Don't change your number!)
Look at the word in the reading to help. If you can't think of a way to draw the word, draw a "sounds like" picture. (Use an ear to indicate that it is a "sounds like" drawing.)
- 2) Go around the room and show your classmates your drawing. Try to guess which word each of your classmates drew.
How many did you get right? Which drawing was the easiest to guess? Which was the most difficult?

Tip: Are you a visual learner? Every time you learn a new word, draw it! Your "picture dictionary" will help you remember the vocabulary.

Vocabulary Review cont...

C. Change the word form. Fill in the word form using the root word as your guide.

Then write a sentence using one of the word forms.

1. patriotism (*noun*) _____ (adjective)

2. independence (*noun*) _____ (adjective)

3. colonize (*verb*) _____ (noun)

4. Thomas Jefferson and liberal (*adjective*) _____ (noun)

5. pursuit (*noun*) _____ (verb)

6. sign (*verb*) _____ (noun)

7. synonymous (*adjective*) _____ (noun)

8. alternative (*noun*) _____ (verb)

DISCUSS

What does this quote mean?

“This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.” ~Elmer Davis

PAIR WORK: Sharing Information (Student A)

Student A: Jake

It's July Fourth! You and your partner each have a schedule from an American student's day planner.

- 1) Help your partner fill out Jake's chart by describing his schedule for July 4th.
- 2) Fill out Sam's schedule by listening to your partner's description.
- 3) Work together to find a good time for Jake and Sam to get together for a BBQ.

Jake's Planner for the 4th of July:

Jake's Planner	TO DO-July 4th
9:00-11:00 am	<i>Breakfast with Grandma and Grandpa at the diner</i>
11:00-noon	<i>Volleyball game at Rockaway beach</i>
12:00-2:00 pm	
2:00-5:00 pm	
5:00-8:00 pm	<i>Drive cousin Lisa to the airport. Traffic might be bad</i>
8:00-midnight	<i>Fireworks at Pier 54 with Stevie and Rob</i>

Sam's Planner	TO DO-July 4th
9:00-11:00 am	
11:00-noon	
12:00-2:00 pm	
2:00-5:00 pm	
5:00-8:00 pm	
8:00-midnight	

PAIR WORK: Sharing Information (Student B)

Student B: Sam

It's July Fourth! You and your partner each have a schedule from an American student's day planner.

- 1) Help your partner fill out Jake's chart, by describing his schedule for July 4th.
- 2) Fill out Sam's schedule by listening to your partner's description.
- 3) Work together to find a good time for Jake and Sam to get together for a BBQ.

Sam's Planner for the 4th of July:

Sam's Planner	To Do -July 4th
9:00-11:00 am	<i>Hair appointment</i>
11:00-noon	
12:00-2:00 pm	<i>Coffee with Katie and Naz</i>
2:00-5:00 pm	
5:00-8:00 pm	<i>Picnic with classmates at park behind school.</i>
8:00-midnight	<i>Fireworks at Pier 84 with mom and sis.</i>

Jake's Planner	To Do -July 4th
9:00-11:00 am	
11:00-noon	
12:00-2:00 pm	
2:00-5:00 pm	
5:00-8:00 pm	
8:00-midnight	

ANSWERS

Description: On July 4th, Americans around the world celebrate Independence Day. In this lesson, students learn the history about the American constitution. New vocabulary and American idioms are introduced and reviewed.

Page 3. Comprehension

1. July 4th is called Independence Day.
2. The reading mentions July 2nd because this is the day the colonies were officially free from British rule.
3. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on July 4th, 50 years after the Declaration of Independence was made official. They were the second and third presidents of the US.
4. liberty; freedom is a synonym for liberty.
5. John Hancock. This has become synonymous with the word signature because John Hancock's signature was extra large on the Declaration of Independence.
6. There were 13 colonies in the US in 1776. Today America has 50 states.
7. The American flag has 50 stars and 13 alternating red and white stripes.
8. The American flag goes down to half-staff when the country is in mourning about an important figure or a fallen soldier.

Page 4 & 5. Vocabulary

A.

- | | | | | | | |
|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. a | 2. f | 3. i | 4. c | 5. l | 6. j | 7. g |
| 8. b | 9. k | 10. n | 11. d | 12. j | 13. e | 14. m |

C.

1. patriotic
2. independent
3. colony
4. liberty
5. pursue
6. signature
7. synonym
8. alternate

Page 8. Idioms

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1. keep up with the Joneses | 2. no dice | 3. a ballpark figure | 4. catch-22 | 5. under the table |
|-----------------------------|------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------|

*For homework, invite your students to try to find out the origin of one of the 5 idioms.