

FOURTH OF JULY FACTS AND FUN!

How was the first 4th of July celebrated?

“On June 11, 1776, the Colonies' Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia and formed a committee whose express purpose was drafting a document that would formally sever their ties with Great Britain. The committee included Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston. Jefferson, who was considered the strongest and most eloquent writer...A total of 86 changes were made to his draft and the Continental Congress officially adopted the final version on July 4, 1776.... The following day, copies of the Declaration of Independence were distributed.”

“On July 8, 1776, the first public readings of the Declaration were held in Philadelphia's Independence Square to the ringing of bells and band music. One year later, on July 4, 1777, Philadelphia marked Independence Day by adjourning Congress and celebrating with bonfires, bells and fireworks....The custom eventually spread to other towns, both large and small, where the day was marked with processions, oratory, picnics, contests, games, military displays and fireworks. Observations throughout the nation became even more common at the end of the War of 1812 with Great Britain.” (Source: PBS.org).

Why do we have Fireworks?

On the first anniversary of the 4th, we were still in the midst of the Revolutionary War, the grand displays of fireworks presented were meant to raise spirits and support of the war. They were a morale booster!

Celebrate by making your own grand fireworks display: [Click here](#).

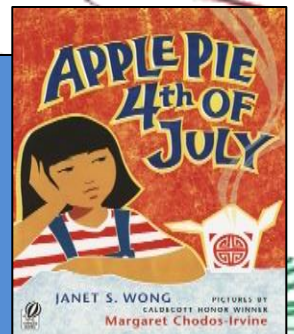


Food on the Fourth: What do we eat?

We often feast on hot dogs and hamburgers at barbecues on the 4th of July now, but our founding fathers would have celebrated very differently. John Adams and his wife indulged in turtle soup, New England poached salmon with egg sauce, green peas, boiled new potatoes in jackets (baked potatoes) Indian pudding or apple pandowdy for dessert.

Is the phrase, “As American as apple pie” accurate? The basis of what apple pie is was brought over by European Settlers. Only one kind of apple we have today was indigenous to America, the rest were brought over with the settlers.

Read: [Apple Pie Fourth of July](#) by Janet S. Wong



Who's that Lady?

The **Statue of Liberty** was a gift to the people of America from the people of France. Her official name is "Liberty Enlightening the World."

The idea for the statue was first presented by French anti-slavery activist Edouard de Laboulaye to the French sculptor Frederic Bartholdi. The internal construction was built by civil engineer Gustave Eiffel (who would later build the Eiffel Tower).

She was so big she was built in sections and later pieced together. The arm and torch were constructed first and were displayed at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876. The head was completed next and shown at the 1878 Paris World's Fair. The statue weighs around 225 tons and is approximately 93 meters tall with her pedestal (About the size of a 30 story building).

Become the Statue of Liberty by making your own crown and torch: Click [here](#).

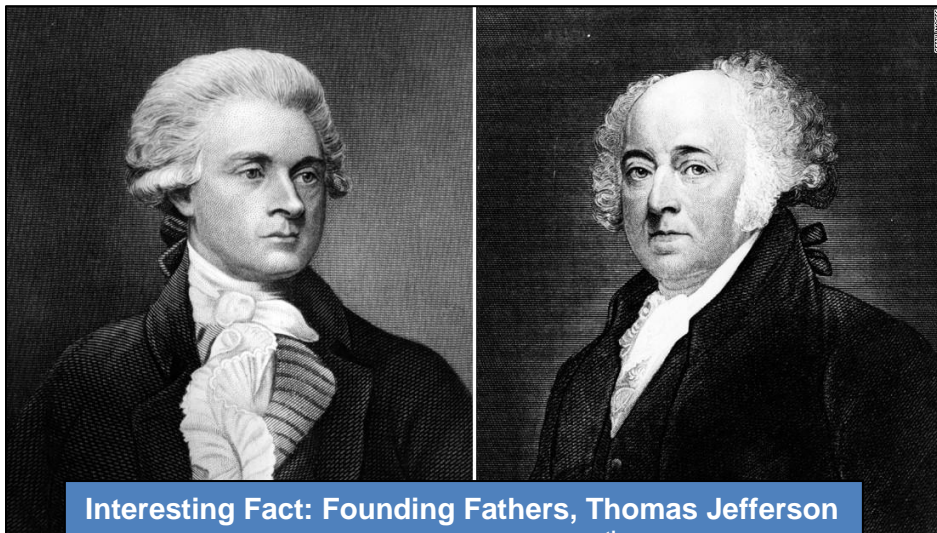
The crown of the statue has seven rays which represent the seven continents and seven seas of the world.



Why does the US Flag look like it does?

On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress passed legislature known as the **Flag Resolution**, stating "the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

Early flags did not always look the same. If you were given these instructions what would you make? There need to be 13 red and white stripes and a field of blue with a new constellation of 13 stars. But, it does not have to look like our flag does now.



Interesting Fact: Founding Fathers, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, both died on July 4th, 1826 on the 50th anniversary of the first 4th of July!

