

Independence Day, July 4





The day the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress



In 1775, people in New England began fighting the British for their independence. On July 2, 1776, the Congress secretly voted for independence from Great Britain. The Declaration of Independence was first published two days later on July 4, 1776.

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

[Faint, mostly illegible text from the original Declaration of Independence document, visible in the background on the left side.]

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776

States of America

INDEPENDENCE.

The Company of Mr. *W. Puddy* & Family
requested at **FIELD POINT**, on the **FOURTH OF JULY**
next, at 10 o'clock, A. M. to unite in the Celebration of the Day.

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

S. MOULTON,
S. WARING,
L. BUSH,
N. KNAPP,
A. M'DONALD,

N. BROWN, JUN.
G. LYON,
~~L. GARDNER,~~
S. LYON.

Greenwich June 20, 1825.

[Handwritten signatures and notes at the bottom left of the image, including names like 'John Knapp' and 'S. Waring'.]

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Declaration of Independence

The political philosophy of the Declaration was not new; its ideals of individual liberty had already been expressed by John Locke and the Continental philosophers. What Jefferson did was to summarize this philosophy in "self-evident truths".



Some interesting facts



The first description of how Independence Day would be celebrated was in a letter from John Adams to his wife Abigail on July 3, 1776.



He described "*pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations*" throughout the United States. However, the term "Independence Day" was not used until 1791.



The first Independence Day was celebrated on July 8, 1776: Although the Declaration of Independence was approved on July 4, 1776, it was not made public until July 8.

, **Thomas Jefferson and John Adams**, both signers of the **Declaration of Independence** and presidents of the United States, died on July 4, 1826 - exactly 50 years after the adoption of the declaration.



The signers of the Declaration of Independence did not sign on July 4, 1776: The idea of the 56 signers being in the same room at the same time on our day of independence is, unfortunately, a myth. The official signing event took place on Aug. 2, 1776, when 50 men signed the document.



Families often celebrate Independence Day by hosting or attending a picnic or barbecue and take advantage of the day off and, in some years, long weekend to gather with relatives. Decorations (e.g., streamers, balloons, and clothing) are generally colored red, white, and blue, the colors of the American flag

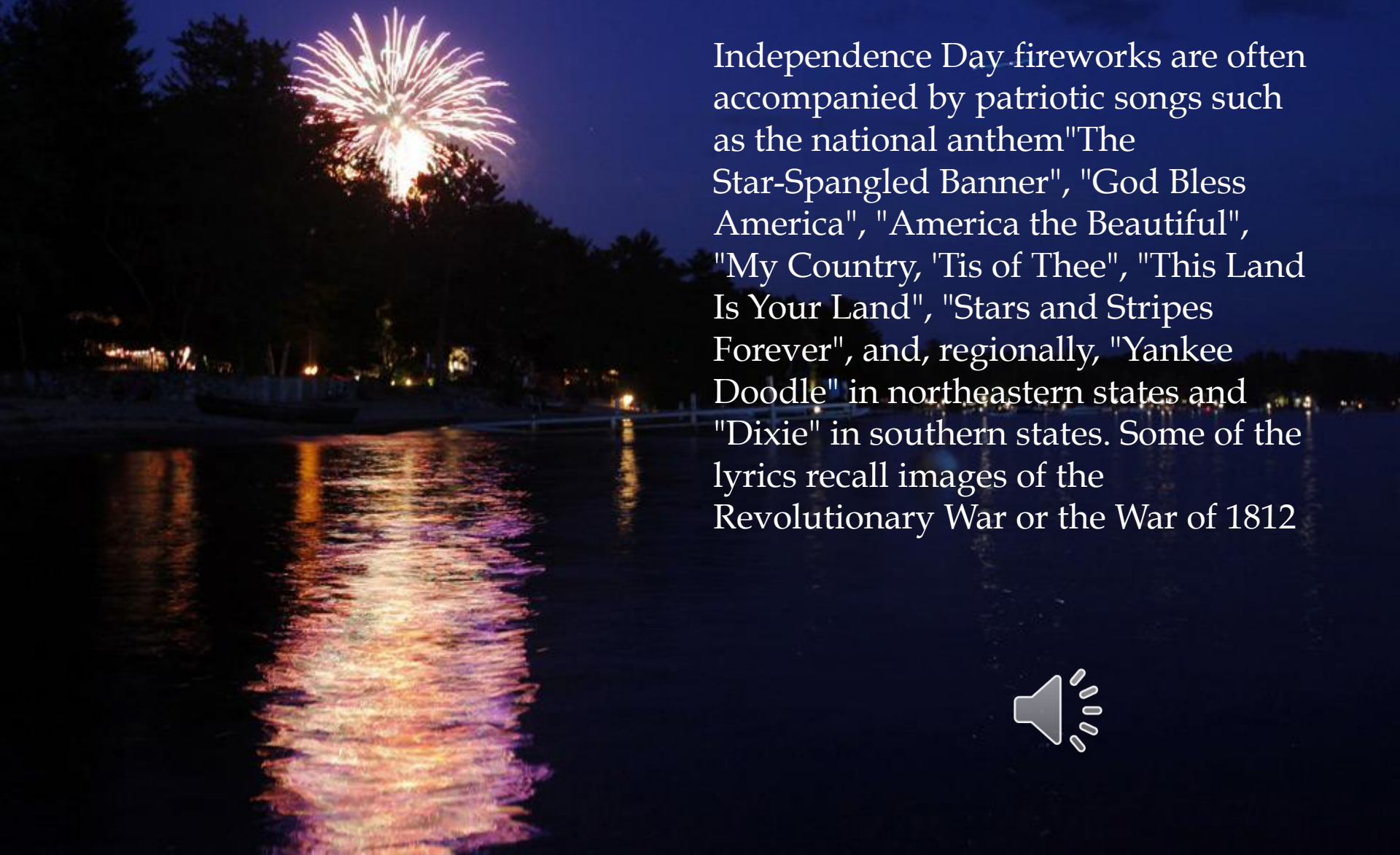




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Some cities have parades with people dressed as the original founding fathers who march to the music of high school bands.



Independence Day fireworks are often accompanied by patriotic songs such as the national anthem "The Star-Spangled Banner", "God Bless America", "America the Beautiful", "My Country, 'Tis of Thee", "This Land Is Your Land", "Stars and Stripes Forever", and, regionally, "Yankee Doodle" in northeastern states and "Dixie" in southern states. Some of the lyrics recall images of the Revolutionary War or the War of 1812







**Wherever Americans are around
the globe they will get together to
celebrate this date...**

