

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.

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. 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. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to amend it, and to institute a new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its Powers in such form, as shall seem to them best to secure these ends. Prudence, indeed, dictates that those who have the power should be disposed to amend or reform rather than resort to the extreme; but when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them to absolute Tyranny, it is their duty to throw off such Government, and to institute a new one.

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. SHAWSON,~~
- S. LYON.

Greenwich June 20, 1825.

Faint, mostly illegible text on the right page, appearing to be a continuation of the Declaration or related correspondence.

Handwritten signatures and notes at the bottom of the page, including names like 'John Puddy' and various family members.

Small handwritten note or signature on the left side of the bottom section.

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

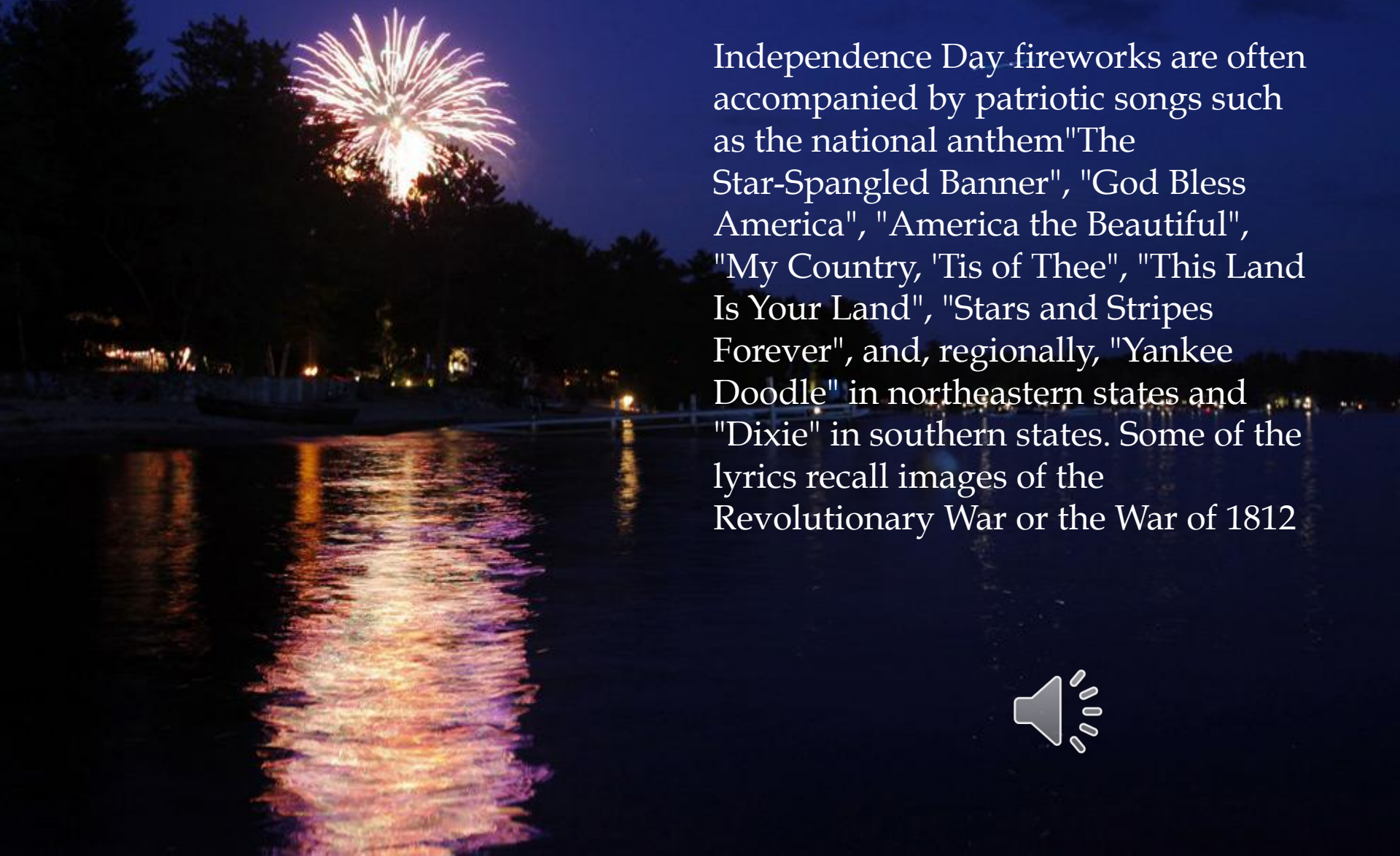




TOTALLY
COOL
PIX.COM

A night scene of a fireworks display. In the foreground, two people are sitting on a patterned blanket, their backs to the camera, watching the fireworks. The sky is dark, with several large, bright fireworks exploding in various colors, including red, white, and yellow. A large plume of white smoke rises from the center of the display. In the background, other people can be seen standing and watching the event. The overall atmosphere is festive and celebratory.

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...**

