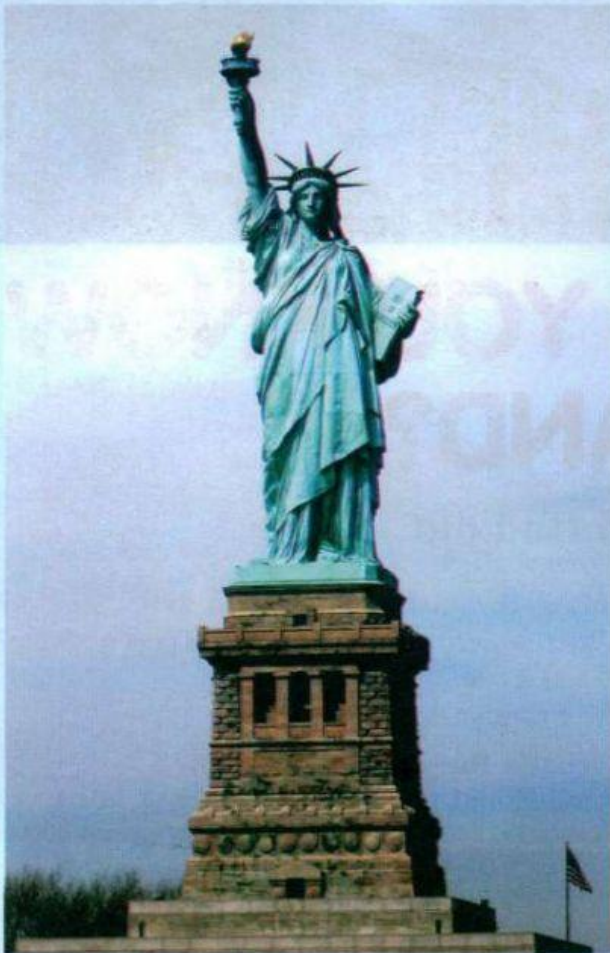


HAPPY BIRTHDAY,



An incredible gift

On July 4, 1884, France presented the US with an incredible birthday gift: the Statue of Liberty. The idea belonged to Edouard-Rene Lefebvre de Laboulaye, a famous French politician and historian, who greatly admired the United States. The statue was designed by Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, Laboulaye's friend and a noted French sculptor. The framework was designed by Alexandre Gustave Eiffel, the creator of the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

The Statue stands 46.05 metres high from its feet to the top of the torch. It weighs 204 tons. The torch is 92.99 metres high.

July 4th, or Independence Day, is the most important American holiday. It's the birthday of the United States of America. On this day, in 1776, America signed the Declaration of Independence and started the fight for freedom from British rule.

Before 1776, the King of England, George III, ruled the thirteen colonies in America. The colonists were tired of the taxes that George III imposed on them. "We have no representation in the British Parliament," they said, "so what right does he have to tax us?" "No taxation without representation" became their battle cry.

In 1767, the British government placed new taxes on tea and paper that the colonists imported from abroad. The colonists got angry and refused to pay. George III sent soldiers to keep order.

In 1773, a group of colonists dressed up as Indians threw 342 chests of tea belonging to the East India Company into the waters of Boston harbour. King George didn't think it was funny. His reply to this "Boston tea party" was a set of laws to punish the colonists. Boston harbour was closed until the tea was paid for. More soldiers were sent there to keep order.

But the "Intolerable Acts", as the colonists called King George's laws, served only to unite the colonies against the British rule. The War of Independence began.

On July 4, 1776, the colonists declared their independence from Britain. Led by Thomas Jefferson, the representatives of all thirteen colonies met in Philadelphia to sign the Declaration of Independence. A large part of it was written by Jefferson himself. The document stated that the colonies were now "free and independent states" and officially named them the United States of America. It also said that all men had a natural right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

The following day, copies of the Declaration of Independence were distributed and, on July 6, The Pennsylvania Evening Post became the first newspaper to print the extraordinary document. People celebrated the birth of a new nation.

But the War of Independence dragged on until 1783 when the colonists finally won. The head of the Revolutionary army was George Washington, who

AMERICA!

later became the first President of the United States of America. In 1783, Independence Day was made an official holiday.

Today, the country's birthday is widely celebrated with parades, public meetings, patriotic music and speech-making. There are picnics and barbecues, and in the evening there are big fireworks shows. Wherever Americans are around the globe, they will get together for a traditional 4th of July celebration!

Let's celebrate Independence Day

It's usually hot on July 4th, so many American families like to eat outside. If they can, they have a barbecue.

Here's a typical menu:

- Hot dogs (with mustard, ketchup or chilli sauce)
- Barbecue chicken (see recipe)
- Coleslaw (a salad of cabbage and carrots with mayonnaise)
- Potato salad
- Watermelon
- Pink lemonade
- Brownies, cookies and cakes

It's a tradition to make food red, white and blue, the colours of the US flag. You can have strawberries, cream and blueberries or make a cake and decorate it like the flag.

Barbecue sauce

You can marinate chicken in this sauce, then cook it on the barbecue or in the oven.

For 1 kg of chicken, you need:

- 1 soup spoon of soy sauce
- 125 ml vinegar
- 1450 g tin of tomato sauce
- 80 g brown sugar
- 3 cloves of garlic, crushed
- Salt and pepper

Mix all the ingredients together and cook for ten minutes until the sauce is thick.

Stars and stripes

When the thirteen colonies declared their independence from Great Britain, George Washington decided that the United States needed a flag, too. There were thirteen stripes and thirteen stars in the first American flag. They stood for the number of states in the new-born independent country. Later, new states joined the US. To solve this problem Congress made a new law about the flag in 1818. The thirteen stripes stayed the same, but for each new state there was a new white star. Today, there are 50 stars on the US flag. The last star was added in 1959, when Hawaii became the 50th American state.

There are many rules for the flag: for example, you should display it only during the day, and you should fold it in a special way. In some schools there is a flag in each classroom, and children stand in front of the flag every day and say the Pledge of Allegiance:

*I pledge allegiance to the flag of the
United States of America
And to the Republic for which it stands
One nation, under God, indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all.*



COMPLETE THE SENTENCES WITH CORRECT WORD/NUMBER OR A WORD PHRASE

1. On the 4th of July in _____ America signed _____.
2. _____ led the process of signing in Philadelphia. He even wrote a large part of it himself.
3. There were _____ colonies in America ruled by _____ before 1776.
4. People didn't know anything about the famous document and realised everything on the _____ of July.
5. Basically placing taxes on _____ and _____ led to the anger of Americans.
6. _____ was the historical event when a group of colonist dressed up as _____ threw chests of tea into the waters of Boston harbour.
7. _____ was the last who ended the War of Independence. He became the _____ of the USA.
8. There were _____ stripes on the flag which showed _____.
The stripes are left on the modern flag and also there are 50 stars which stands for _____.

