Name: _____

The Fourth of July



Independence Day is an American holiday celebrated each year on July 4th. This special day began almost 250 years ago and is known today for fireworks, barbeques, and parades.



Declaration of Independence

History of July 4th

In the beginning, America was ruled by Great Britain. On July 4th, 1776, America's founders came together to approve the Declaration of Independence. This important document was made because Americans wanted to be free from Great Britain. On this day, America's leaders said the nation was its own country and would not follow the rules of the king anymore.



Four days later (July 8, 1776) the Declaration of Independence was read for the first time in public. One year after the declaration was approved, the first Fourth of July celebration was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The city rang bells and launched fireworks. Almost 100 years later, in 1870, the government named the Fourth of July a national holiday.

July 4th Today



Fourth of July is celebrated across the United States today as a day of American pride. Families and friends get together for barbeques and picnics. **Patriotic** parades and events can be found across all 50 states. American flags are hung and people proudly wear red, white, and blue. Bands play music and firework displays light up the night sky.



Did you know?
Almost 150 million hot dogs are eaten on July 4th.

Understanding Key Ideas and Details

What is this article mostly about?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Key Vocabulary

What is the meaning of **patriotic**?	What clues support your inference?

Multiple Choice

Which detail explains why Independence Day is celebrated on July 4th?

a. Independence Day is an American holiday celebrated each year on July 4th.

b. The city rang bells and launched fireworks.

c. Almost 100 years later, in 1870, the government named the Fourth of July a national holiday.

d. On this day, America's leaders said the nation was its own country and would not follow the rules of the king anymore.

Apply It!

Independence Day Timeline

In 1776, →	Then, →	In 1870, →	Today,

LIVEWORKSHEETS
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