

Happy Birthday AMERICA



Read the text and complete the tasks below:

The 4th of July is an important day for Americans. It is the day their country was born. On July 4th 1776, Congress officially adopted the Declaration of Independence and announced to the world that they were a free nation, independent from Great Britain. Although Americans have celebrated July 4th since 1777, it didn't really become a **federal** legal holiday until 1941. So, what do Americans do on this day?

July 4th celebrations often take place outdoors. People decorate their homes with streamers, fake rockets, balloons and flags. Everything is done up in red, white, and blue, the colours of the "The Star-Spangled Banner", the name of the US national **anthem** and one of the nicknames of the American flag. The flag has 50 stars for the fifty states and 13 stripes for the first 13 colonies. In the morning, lots of people dress up and go out in the street to watch the parades. The biggest parade is in Washington D.C., the capital of the USA. Afterwards families get together by hosting or attending a picnic or barbecue. In many cities people have **block parties**. Then, they watch or play a baseball game. At night, they watch firework **displays**, usually **accompanied** by patriotic songs. Firework shows are held in many states with the Macy's Firework Spectacular in New York, typically being the most impressive. It's a fun day for everyone.

B. Mark (T) for True or (F) for False

- 1) On July 4th Americans celebrate their independence from France. _____
- 2) The Declaration of Independence was officially approved in 1776. _____
- 3) It became a national holiday in 1776 _____
- 4) July 4th was first celebrated in 1777. _____
- 5) The American national anthem is called "The Star-Spangled Banner". _____
- 6) The US has 13 states. _____
- 7) People watch parades on July 4th. _____
- 8) The national colours are red and blue. _____
- 9) On July 4th night, they play baseball. _____
- 10) New York has the largest parade. _____

C. Choose the best answer:

- 1) The Declaration of Independence was written in ...
a) 1776 b) 1777 c) 1941
- 2) Americans celebrate with ...
a) picnics and flags
b) parades and firework displays
c) barbecues and streamers
- 3) Most people spend this day with their...
a) families b) friends c) both of these
- 4) The flag is also called ...
a) Red -Striped Banner
b) Star Striped Banner
c) Star Spangled Banner
- 5) Americans ... Independence Day
a) enjoy b) don't mind c) hate



C. Choose the correct synonym for these words from the passage

- 1) **federal** (line 5)
a) local b) national c) important
- 2) **anthem** (line 8)
a) hymn b) flag c) story
- 3) **block parties** (line 13)
a) parties in your garden
b) street parties in your neighbourhood
c) parties at a local club
- 4) **displays** (line 13)
a) exhibition b) game c) parade
- 5) **accompanied** (line 13)
a) go together with b) attended
c) take part in

D. Now find words which mean

- 1) to state or say something publically is _____
- 2) If you are free and on your own you are _____
- 3) If something is not real or it's an imitation it's _____
- 4) to organize a party with guests is to _____
- 5) having a great love of your country means you are _____
- 6) Something that makes you feel admiration is _____

E. Answer the questions

- 1) What do Americans celebrate on the 4th of July? _____
- 2) Who did Americans gain independence from? _____
- 3) What do people put up in their homes? _____
- 4) Where do most people eat on this day? _____
- 5) What happens in Washington, D.C. ? _____
- 6) How do most Americans feel about the 4th of July? _____

Now write in 5-8 lines how you celebrate your country's Independence Day

