

Did you know?

American Independence Day or Fourth of July



A national holiday of fireworks and celebrations as the United States of America commemorates the day that it came into being in 1776.

In 1776, the thirteen British colonies on the east coast of North America decided to break

away from their colonial master, Great Britain, and become independent. Although technically independence was voted for two days beforehand, the 4th July 1776 is the date on the Declaration of Independence and this is the date that has become so significant.

John Adams one of the signees of the Declaration of Independence wrote: *It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.*

And indeed, almost 250 years after the founding of the United States of America, 4th July is marked by many patriotic displays. Many cities have parades in the morning and firework displays in the evening. *Bristol Fourth of July Parade* taking place in Bristol, Rhode Island, on the east coast of the USA has been held since 1785: the oldest continuous Independence Day celebration in the United States. Bristol may be oldest, but Seward, Nebraska can claim to be *America's Official Fourth of July City-Small Town USA* when the population of just 6,000 swells almost sevenfold to over 40,000 for the celebrations in the town square.

Macy's department store in New York traditionally holds one of the biggest firework displays, while on the Capitol lawn in Washington a free live concert takes place in the afternoon before fireworks in the evening attracting upwards of half a million spectators. And of course you can also watch the Independence Day parade beforehand which runs for one mile along Constitution Avenue.

If people want to be patriotic at home, then a barbecue with classic fourth of July recipes, such as Star-spangled chicken with fireworks salsa or Best barbecue ribs followed by Red, white and blue cheesecake would be in order. And partygoers at home would do well to follow the advisory rules and guidelines for displaying the American flag, known as *The US flag code*. Amongst these guidelines are: the flag should not be displayed when the weather is inclement, and it should not touch the ground.

Did you know?

If you would like to find out more about the National Independence day parade in Washington then click here: <http://july4thparade.com>
And if you would like to use **American Independence Day** as a topic in your lesson, then we have provided you with an activity at A2 level. You'll find it in the following **Teacher's notes** and on the **Worksheet**.

Teacher's notes

4 JULY ACROSTIC (Level A2 upward, 10+ minutes)

- ◆ Copy **4 July acrostic**, making sure you have one Student A and one Student B version for each pair of students.
- ◆ On the board write *4 July 1776* and ask students if they know what this date refers to. Explain that it is the date when the then thirteen British colonies broke away from Great Britain to become independent and the United States of America was founded. (It might be easier to explain this quickly in German.)
- ◆ Tell students they are going to complete a puzzle about America.
- ◆ Divide the class into pairs. Give Student A and Student B the respective versions of the **4 July acrostic**.
- ◆ Explain that each pair has to work together to complete the puzzle. Student A should give Student B a clue or tip so that Student B can find the solution to their missing words and vice versa.
- ◆ Help with any unknown vocabulary.
- ◆ When each student has finished they will see the words in the centre column spell *Independence Day*.
- ◆ If more confident students finish before the others, ask them to write one or two more questions about the USA.
- ◆ If there is time, ask all students to write a question about the USA. In turn, they ask other students their question.

Did you know?

Worksheet

4 JULY ACROSTIC

Student A: Your partner will help you fill in the missing words.

1			C	A	L	I	F	O	R	N	I	A		
2														
3				M	A	D	O	N	N	A				
4														
5		T	R	U	M	P								
6														
7			T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I	N	G
8														
9					M	E	X	I	C	O				
10														
11				R	O	C	K	I	E	S				
12														
13	F	L	O	R	I	D	A							
14														
15		H	O	L	L	Y	W	O	O	D				

Possible clues to give Student B:

- 1 This state is on the west coast; the largest city is Los Angeles.
- 3 A best-selling singer – she's 60 in 2018.
- 5 He is the 45th President of the USA.
- 7 This holiday is on the fourth Thursday of November.
- 9 This country is south of the USA.
- 11 This range of mountains runs from the north to the south.
- 13 This is the Sunshine State – famous for its oranges and alligators.
- 15 This is the home of the US film industry.

Did you know?

Worksheet

4 JULY ACROSTIC

Student B: Your partner will help you fill in the missing words.

1														
2				C	A	N	A	D	A					
3														
4						E	L	V	I	S				
5														
6		W	H	I	T	E		H	O	U	S	E		
7														
8						D	A	L	L	A	S			
9														
10	W	A	S	H	I	N	G	T	O	N				
11														
12						R	E	A	G	A	N			
13														
14						E	A	G	L	E				
15														

Possible clues to give Student A:

- 2 This country is north of the USA.
- 4 He is the most famous Rock and Roll singer of all time!
- 6 Where does the President live?
- 8 The city in Texas where John F Kennedy was shot.
- 10 The capital city of USA.
- 12 This president had a wife called Nancy – he used to be a film star.
- 14 This bird is the national symbol of the USA.