

American Independence Day, 4th July

by Julian L'Enfant

**Level:** A2 Waystage (Council of Europe); Flyers (Cambridge YL tests); pre-intermediate

**Target age:** 9 – 11 years

**Time needed:** 1 hour

Reading

Procedure

- 1 Create interest in the topic of American Independence Day by showing pictures, photographs or objects associated with the United States of America, such as an American flag (Worksheet 1) and a map of the USA. Write the date: 4th July, 1776. Practice saying the date: *The fourth of July, seventeen seventy-six*. Ask the students what they know about America. Elicit as much information as possible and encourage the children to think about the history of the USA.
- 2 Show the US flag from Worksheet 1 and challenge the students to count the number of stars on the flag (50). Then ask them to count the number of stripes (13). Show a map and introduce the state of Pennsylvania and the city of Philadelphia. Ask the students to guess how many states there are in the USA now (50) and how many there were in 1776 (13). Explain that the stars on the flag represent the number of states there are now, while the stripes represent the original 13 states of the United States of America.
- 3 Introduce the title of the reading, which is taken from the Declaration of Independence: *Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness*. Clarify the vocabulary and explain why the people thought this was important.
- 4 Pre-teach the vocabulary from Worksheet 3. Cut up the word and definition cards – one set for each pair or group of students. Encourage the pairs or groups to match the words to the definitions.
- 5 Hand out Worksheet 2 and have the students read the text and put the word cards in the order they come up in the text.
- 6 Students read the text a second time and answer the detailed questions.
- 7 Ask the students if there is an Independence Day, or similar holiday/festival in their country. *What kinds of things do they do/eat/wear? Is it a 'national holiday'?*

Wordsearch

- 1 Write up the following sentence on the board: *There were only 13 colonies in America in 1776*. Explain that the 13 colonies became the 13 states of the United States of America after the people signed the Declaration of Independence. Hand out Worksheet 4 and show the names of the original 13 states at the bottom of the sheet.
- 2 Now ask the students to find the states in the wordsearch grid.

Solution:

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | R | S | S | T | D | H | Z | Z | R | K | W | Z | N | A |
| W | L | B | N | B | T | V | R | O | S | U | K | Z | E | N |
| T | G | E | O | R | G | I | A | Y | I | C | X | F | W | I |
| S | T | T | E | S | U | H | C | A | S | S | A | M | H | L |
| S | S | C | C | D | E | L | A | W | A | R | E | V | A | O |
| U | S | V | P | O | K | R | O | Y | W | E | N | I | M | R |
| B | Y | E | M | R | N | G | M | X | T | Y | Q | R | P | A |
| M | F | H | P | X | D | N | D | A | R | H | R | G | S | C |
| Y | E | S | R | E | J | W | E | N | R | Z | C | I | H | H |
| I | W | T | X | L | T | K | G | C | Z | Y | V | N | I | T |
| P | T | M | N | Y | J | Q | H | I | T | L | L | I | R | R |
| S | O | U | T | H | C | A | R | O | L | I | N | A | E | O |
| Z | P | J | X | K | J | G | T | H | Q | A | C | Z | N | N |
| A | I | N | A | V | L | Y | S | N | N | E | P | U | J | D |
| R | H | O | D | E | I | S | L | A | N | D | L | Q | T | J |

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YOUNG LEARNERS WORKSHEET 1



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**Reading****“Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness”**

Independence Day is a national holiday in the United States and remembers the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It was signed on 4th July, 1776 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

There were only 13 colonies in America in 1776 and they were ruled by King George III in Great Britain. The colonies didn't like paying taxes to the King and they wanted to make their own decisions. The King didn't want to lose control of the colonies, so he sent more soldiers to America. The colonies tried to talk to the King for two years, but without success.

In 1776 a group of men began to write the Declaration of Independence. The leader of the group was a man called Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States. Other members of the group were John Adams, the second president of the United States, and Benjamin Franklin, a scientist and politician. On 4th July, 1776, nine out of thirteen colonies voted for the Declaration. John Hancock was the first person to sign his name and a total of fifty-six people signed the Declaration from the thirteen colonies.

The first Independence Day celebration was on 4th July, 1777. By the early 1800s, parades, picnics and fireworks became popular.

**Read the text and answer the questions below.**

1. When was the Declaration of Independence signed?
2. How many colonies were there in America in 1776?
3. What was the name of the British King who ruled the colonies?
4. What did the King do to keep control of the colonies?
5. Who was the leader of the group who wrote the Declaration of Independence?
6. How many colonies voted for independence?
7. Who was the first person to sign the Declaration?
8. What do people still do to celebrate the fourth of July?



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### Vocabulary

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| independence     | Being free from control                              |
| declaration      | To make a formal statement                           |
| colony           | A place under the control of another country         |
| taxes            | The money that you pay to the government             |
| a picnic         | A meal that you eat outside                          |
| a president      | The leader of a country                              |
| to vote          | When a group of people chooses someone, or something |
| national holiday | A day when you don't have to go to school            |

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### Wordsearch: American Independence Day: The 13 Colonies in 1776

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | R | S | S | T | D | H | Z | Z | R | K | W | Z | N | A |
| W | L | B | N | B | T | V | R | O | S | U | K | Z | E | N |
| T | G | E | O | R | G | I | A | Y | I | C | X | F | W | I |
| S | T | T | E | S | U | H | C | A | S | S | A | M | H | L |
| S | S | C | C | D | E | L | A | W | A | R | E | V | A | O |
| U | S | V | P | O | K | R | O | Y | W | E | N | I | M | R |
| B | Y | E | M | R | N | G | M | X | T | Y | Q | R | P | A |
| M | F | H | P | X | D | N | D | A | R | H | R | G | S | C |
| Y | E | S | R | E | J | W | E | N | R | Z | C | I | H | H |
| I | W | T | X | L | T | K | G | C | Z | Y | V | N | I | T |
| P | T | M | N | Y | J | Q | H | I | T | L | L | I | R | R |
| S | O | U | T | H | C | A | R | O | L | I | N | A | E | O |
| Z | P | J | X | K | J | G | T | H | Q | A | C | Z | N | N |
| A | I | N | A | V | L | Y | S | N | N | E | P | U | J | D |
| R | H | O | D | E | I | S | L | A | N | D | L | Q | T | J |

New Hampshire

New Jersey

North Carolina

Massachusetts

Pennsylvania

South Carolina

Rhode Island

Delaware

Georgia

Connecticut

Maryland

New York

Virginia