

Teacher's Notes

4th of July /U.S. Independence Day Lesson

Level	Intermediate +
Lesson Aims	Learners will develop reading for gist, specific information and detail in the context of Independence Day facts. Learners will also develop their speaking fluency by designing and presenting their ideal national holiday.
Approximate Timing	45 min
Attached materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5x pictures for the lead in discussion • 1.5 x Students worksheet • Highlighted answer key for the teacher • Original text for Ss
Text adapted from	http://www.britannica.com/blogs/2011/07/happy-independence-day-america-fun-fourth-july-facts/
Image credits	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. http://rsfireworks.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/fireworks.jpg 2. http://www.oklahomafarmreport.com/wire/news/2014/05/media/07215_bar_becuegrill05232012.jpg 3. http://ak1.ostkcdn.com/img/mxc/100929_football_equipment.jpg 4. http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&docid=s5ef2dynJHDVmM&tbnid=IZHr-RO1dZmtRM:&ved=0CAIQjBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.joonbug.com%2Fmedia%2Fp_hlZJoEYO9E%2Fnew-years-party.jpg&ei=mLicU6aGKcyNyASvoYD4DQ&psig=AFQjCNEbmpJP6UHXDjrl_5lveyA_77staw&ust=1402866187484865 5. http://rollingout.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/DC.jpg

1) Lead in

- Pre-class: Pin up pictures around the room
- Tell students you'll be talking about celebrating national holidays. Ask students to look at pictures and discuss if they celebrate national holidays in their country like this.

2) Pre-reading

- In pairs/threes, students make a list of what they already know about America's Independence Day- focus on origin and any facts they might already know. Students may do this in small groups on the handout, or if you like, you could play "pass the pen" for this. (Students line up in two teams facing the board. The person at the front writes an Independence Day fact then passes the pen/chalk to the next team member in line and then moves to the back of the line. This continues for around 2-3 minutes. The team with the most ideas wins.)

3) Reading 1- Read for Gist

- Students now read the text about Independence Day and compare against their brainstorm. Are any of their facts/ideas mentioned in the text?

4) Reading 2- Read for Specific Information

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- Students fold down the bottom of their sheet to look at the numbers. They should read over the text again and find what those numbers represent.

5) Reading 3: Detailed Comprehension

- Students fold down one more time to decide if the facts are true or false.

6) Productive Follow up: Speaking and Presenting

- Put the students into pairs/threes. They should now work together and decide what they would like for their ideal national holiday celebration*. They can include aspects of the photos from the lead in or their own ideas. Their holiday should include at least:
 - When it's celebrated
 - Where people celebrate
 - What people do
 - Any special food or important people
- Students then regroup and present their ideas to each other, deciding which national holiday they would most like to attend.
- *Modification note: Students could simply report on how they celebrate national days in their own country if they would be more comfortable or less creative.

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Answer Key – Worksheet 1, Reading

Happy Independence Day, America: Fun Fourth (of July) Facts

Well, America's 235th Independence Day is upon us, so get out your barbecues, fireworks, suntan lotion, and beverages and (1) *gather with your families* to commemorate the birth of America and the approval of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. In celebrating the event, Britannica has put together some unusual facts surrounding the holiday (broadly speaking).

* Unfortunate irony: (2) *Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died on July 4, 1826*—the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. The **fifth** U.S. president, *James Monroe, also died on July 4*, but in 1831. Yes, that makes **three** of our 39 presidents who are deceased who died on the country's Independence Day. What are the odds of that?

* During Paul Revere's famous ride on **April 18, 1775**, warning of the forthcoming British soldiers, (3) *he was especially looking for just two people—John Hancock and Samuel Adams*, since it was thought that the British would be coming to arrest them (Hancock was president of the Massachusetts legislature and Adams a leading revolutionary).

* All it's cracked up to be: (4) *The Liberty Bell was rung not on July 4, 1776, but on July 8, 1776*, to celebrate the **first** public reading of the Declaration of Independence. When it was rung in honor of George Washington's birthday in **1846**, it cracked irreparably. Did you know that when British forces entered Philadelphia in 1777, the Liberty Bell was hidden in an Allentown, Pennsylvania, church for safe keeping.

* A toast! The melody for (5) *"The Star-Spangled Banner"* ([click here for instrumental version](#)) was taken from *"To Anacreon in Heaven," a drinking song of a London society*. Did you also know that the song, written during the British attack on Fort M'Henry, was originally titled "Defence of Fort M'henry"?

* "Ooh, ahh!" (6) *Fireworks are believed to have developed out of military rockets. In the European Middle Ages*, the military pressed fireworks experts into service to conduct celebrations of victory and peace.

* Hold the mustard: The English word (7) *"barbecue"* came from the *Arawak Indians of the Caribbean*. The barbacoa was a grating of green wood upon which strips of meat were placed to cook or to dry over a slow fire.

* A star in the making: Upon her husband's death in 1776, Betsy Ross took over the family upholstery business. It was there, according to legend, George Washington asked Ross to design and make a flag for the new nation. Speaking of flags, (8) *the first unofficial flag of the United States was hoisted at Prospect Hill in Charlestown in Massachusetts on January 1, 1776*, and was called the Continental Colours (or, incorrectly, as the Grand Union Flag).

* The tablet held by in the Statue of Liberty's left hand bears the date July 4, 1776, but (9) *the statue itself was presented to the U.S. by France on July 4, 1884*. It was dedicated **two** years later, on October 28, 1886, by President Grover Cleveland.

Bold answers: Specific information answers

Italic answers: True/false answers

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Answer Key – Worksheet 2

Student Worksheet 2 Answers

2. What do the numbers below mean in the text? Underline the numbers and write down your answers:

1st Public reading of the Declaration of Independence (p.4)

3 people died on 4th July (p.2)

1st Unofficial flag (p.8)

5th US president, James Monroe (p.2)

1st January 1776- unofficial flag hoisted (p.8)

18 April, 1775- Paul Revere's ride (p.3)

2 people (Hancock and Adams) (p.3)

1846 Liberty Bell cracked on Washington's birthday (p.4)

2 years later- dedication of Statue of Liberty (p.9)

1884 Year the Statue of Liberty was presented (p.9)

3. Are these facts true or false? Correct the false sentences.

1. Independence Day is a time for celebrating with friends. **F- gather with your families**

2. Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and George Washington all died on the same day. **F- James Monroe, not Washington**

3. John Hancock was looking for Paul Revere. **F- Paul Revere was looking for John Hancock.**

4. The Liberty Bell was first rung on Independence Day in 1776. **F- July 8, 1776**

5. 'The Star-Spangled Banner' was adapted from a song originally from England. **T- A London society drinking song**

6. Fireworks were not an American invention. **T- European middle ages- military origins**

7. The word 'barbecue' comes from an American Indian tribe. **F- Arawak Indians of the Caribbean**

8. The first flag of America was seen in Washington DC. **F- Charleston in Massachusetts**

9. France gave the United States the Statue of Liberty in the 19th century. **T- 1884**

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Student Worksheet 1 - Reading

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* Unfortunate irony: Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died on July 4, 1826—the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. The fifth U.S. president, James Monroe, also died on July 4, but in 1831. Yes, that makes three of our 39 presidents who are deceased who died on the country's Independence Day. What are the odds of that?

* During Paul Revere's famous ride on April 18, 1775, warning of the forthcoming British soldiers, he was especially looking for just two people—John Hancock and Samuel Adams, since it was thought that the British would be coming to arrest them (Hancock was president of the Massachusetts legislature and Adams a leading revolutionary).

* All it's cracked up to be: The Liberty Bell was rung not on July 4, 1776, but on July 8, 1776, to celebrate the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. When it was rung in honor of George Washington's birthday in 1846, it cracked irreparably. Did you know that when British forces entered Philadelphia in 1777, the Liberty Bell was hidden in an Allentown, Pennsylvania, church for safe keeping.

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* The tablet held by in the Statue of Liberty's left hand bears the date July 4, 1776, but the statue itself was presented to the U.S. by France on July 4, 1884. It was dedicated two years later, on October 28, 1886, by President Grover Cleveland.

Student Worksheet 2

1. What do you already know about America's Independence Day? Make notes below:

❖

❖

❖

❖

❖

❖

2. What do the numbers below mean in the text? Underline the numbers and write down your answers:

1st _____

1st _____

1st _____

2 _____

2 _____

3 _____

5th _____

18 _____

1846 _____

1884 _____

3. Are these facts true or false? Correct the false sentences.

1. Independence Day is a time for celebrating with friends.

2. Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and George Washington all died on the same day.

3. John Hancock was looking for Paul Revere.

4. The Liberty Bell was first rung on Independence Day in 1776.

5. 'The Star-Spangled Banner' was adapted from a song originally from England.

6. Fireworks were not an American invention.

7. The word 'barbecue' comes from an American Indian tribe.

8. The first flag of America was seen in Washington DC.

9. France gave the United States the Statue of Liberty in the 19th century.

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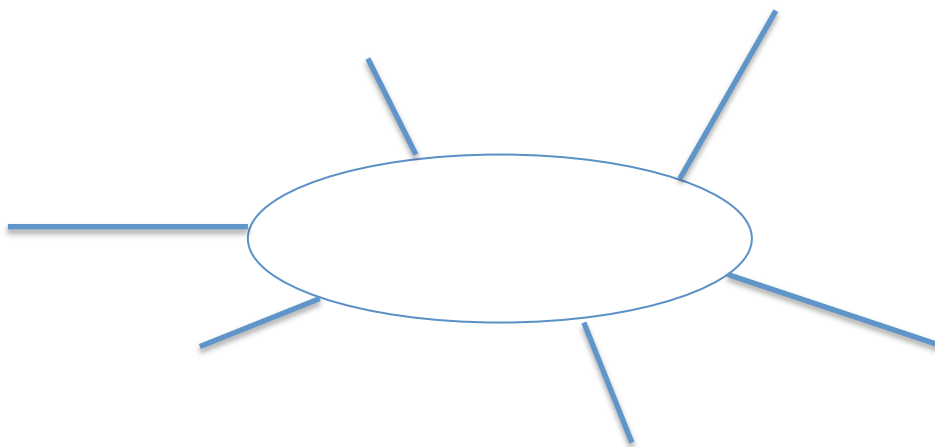
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Student Worksheet 3

What does your ideal national holiday look like? Make notes below. Think about:

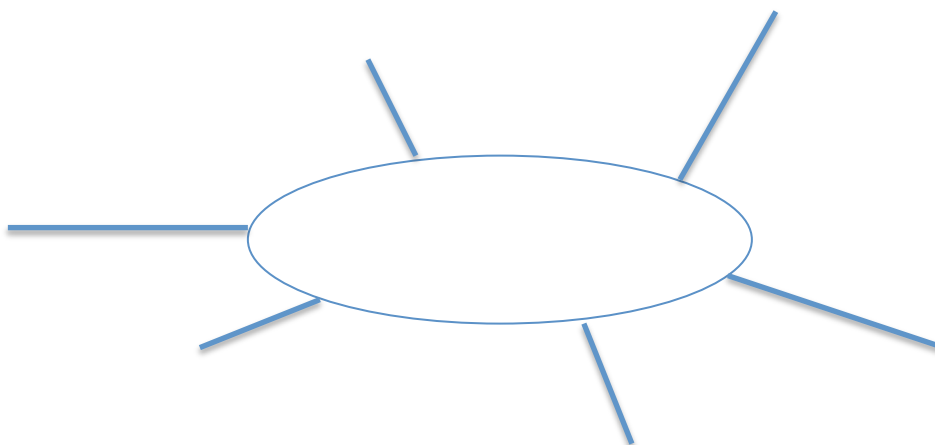
- When it's celebrated
- Where people celebrate
- What people do
- Any special food or important people
- Anything else???



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What does your ideal national holiday look like? Make notes below. Think about:

- When it's celebrated
- Where people celebrate
- What people do
- Any special food or important people
- Anything else???



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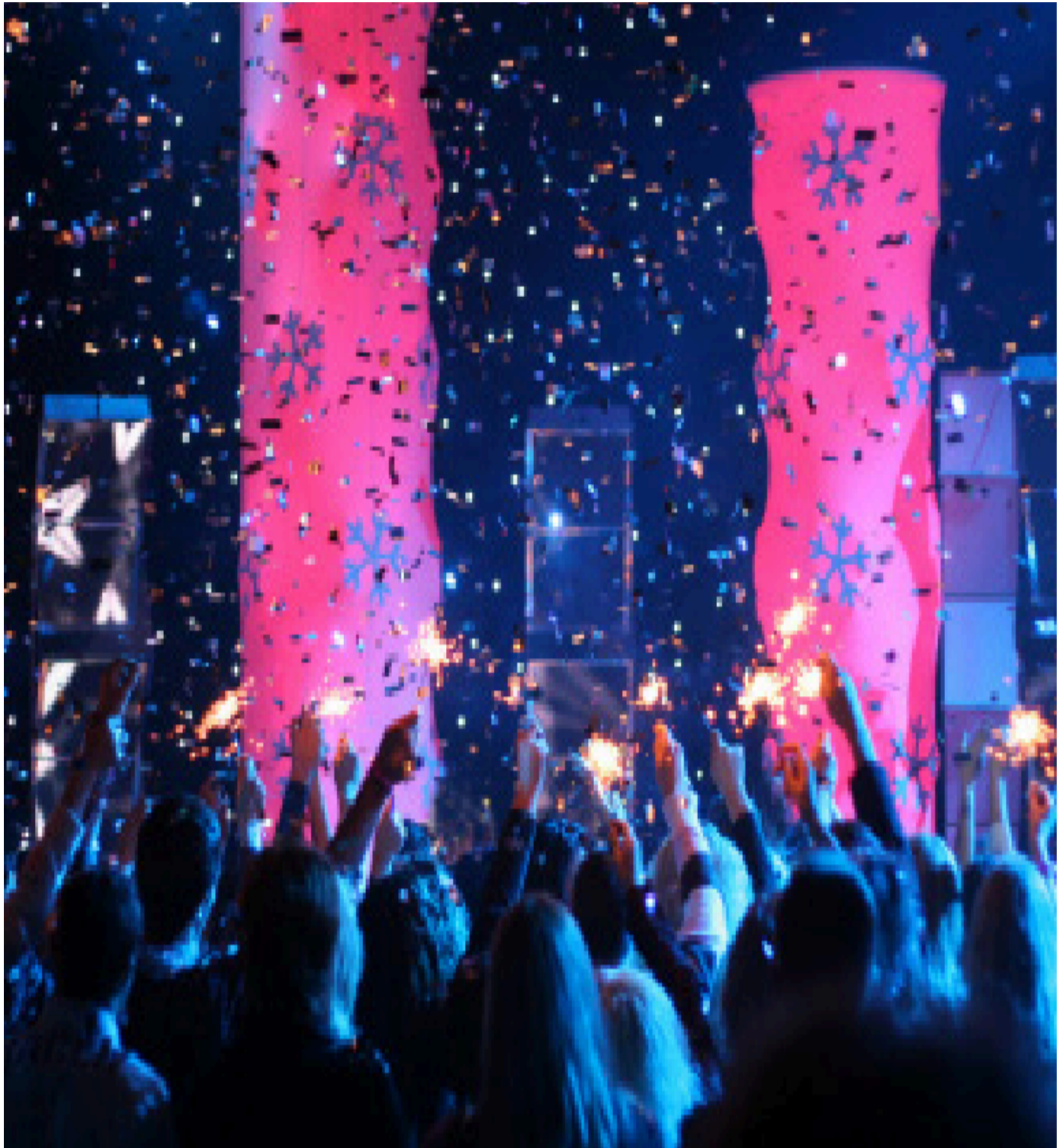


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