

# 4<sup>th</sup> of July “Fun Facts”

(Let us know if you have a few of these!)

Many of the facts below were obtained from [softschools.com](http://softschools.com), an education web site.

- The Declaration of Independence was originally adopted on July 2nd 1776, but it was revised and the final version was made official two days later, on the 4th of July 1776.
- 56 men representing 13 colonies signed the Declaration of Independence.
- John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, both of whom signed the Declaration of Independence, later became United States Presidents. They also both died on July 4th, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the signing. They were the only two original signers of the Declaration of Independence to later become Presidents of the United States.
- James Monroe, a Founding Father but not signer of the Declaration of Independence also served as a United States President. He died on July 4th, 1831.
- The only United States President to date who was born on the 4th of July was Calvin Coolidge. He was the 30th President and was born in 1872.
- On Independence Day, approximately 155 million hot dogs are eaten in the United States. July 4th is considered to be the biggest hot dog holiday each year.
- The Liberty Bell is tapped 13 times on every July 4th. It cannot be rung for fear of cracking the historic bell. It has not been rung since 1846.
- John Adams and Thomas Jefferson pushed for the bald eagle to be the national bird, while Benjamin Franklin pushed for the turkey. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson won out.
- Of the 56 who signed the Declaration of Independence, 8 were from Britain.

- Edward Rutledge was the youngest signer of the Declaration of Independence at 26 years old, and Benjamin Franklin was the oldest at 70 years old.
- It is estimated that approximately 14,000 professional fireworks displays are put on each 4th of July in the United States.
- The 4th of July was declared a holiday for federal employees in 1870.
- It was 1938 before the 4th of July was declared a paid federal holiday.
- In 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was signed, there were only 2.5 million people living in the U.S. Today it is more than 330 million people living in the United States.

### **Declaration of Independence Facts**

On July 4th, 1776 the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, which announced that the 13 colonies were independent sovereign states and not a part of the British Empire any longer. Instead, these 13 states were a new nation called the United States of America. The Declaration of Independence was adopted more than a year after the Revolutionary War had begun. The war started because the British Empire tried to impose taxes on the colonies to pay off their debts and because of disagreement as to the British Parliament's authority in the colonies. The Declaration of Independence formally declared the independence of the United States of America. This historical document now sits at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Many people believe that there is a secret message written on the back of the Declaration of Independence. The words are in reality only 'Original Declaration of Independence / dated 4th July 1776'. The movie National Treasure continued this myth when it's main character claimed there was a secret map on the reverse side.

Thomas Jefferson is considered by many to be the author of this important document but he was a member of five-person committee consisting of Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston, John Adams and himself.

Robert Livingston did not sign the Declaration of Independence even though he contributed to its creation. He didn't agree with the timing of declaring independence.

The first week of July is typically the busiest travel week of the year in the U.S.

The biggest blockbuster movies of the year open on Independence Day weekend.

The now American celebrated song Yankee Doodle was originally written by British soldiers to make fun of backwoods Americans.

Bristol, Rhode Island has the oldest continuous celebration dating back to 1785.

Massachusetts became the first state to declare Independence Day a holiday.

The stars of the original flag were in a circle so all colonies would appear equal.

The first Independence Day celebration took place in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776. This when the Declaration of Independence was first read in public after people were gathered by ringing the Liberty Bell.