



Independence Day, also called Fourth of July or July 4th, in the United States, the annual celebration of nationhood. It commemorates the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. Independence Day is celebrated on Monday, July 4, 2022 in the United States.

The Congress had voted in favor of independence from Great Britain on July 2 but did not actually complete the process of revising the Declaration of Independence, originally drafted by Thomas Jefferson in consultation with fellow committee members John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and William Livingston, until two days later.

### The Time of Celebration



The celebration was initially modeled on that of the king's birthday, which had been marked annually by bell ringing, bonfires, solemn processions, and oratory. Such festivals had long played a significant role in the Anglo-American political tradition. Independence Day became the model for a series of (often short-lived) celebrations that sometimes contained more explicit political resonance, such as George Washington's birthday and the anniversary of Jefferson's inauguration while he served as president (1801-09).

With the rise of leisure, the Fourth of July emerged as a major midsummer holiday. The prevalence of heavy drinking and the many injuries caused by setting off fireworks prompted reformers of the late 19th and the early 20th century to mount a Safe and Sane Fourth of July movement. During the later 20th century, although it remained a national holiday marked by parades, concerts of patriotic music, and fireworks displays, Independence Day declined in importance as a venue for politics.

### Did You Know?

The first official Independence Day celebration took place on July 4, 1777, in Philadelphia.

It was once considered disrespectful to keep your business open on the 4th of July.

The famous line "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness" was originally drafted as "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Property."

Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest is held on July 4th every year. The record is 76 hot dogs in 10 minutes.

Three US presidents and Founding Fathers died on the Fourth of July: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson each in 1826, on the 50th anniversary, and James Monroe in 1831.

Top 5 July 4th Foods are: Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Wings, Potato Salad, and Cupcakes.

The first July 4th parade was in Rhode Island which has been happening since 1785.



### Fireworks and the 4th of July

Most historians think that fireworks were invented in China, though some argue that the original birthplace was in the Middle East or India. We do know that somewhere around A.D. 800, Chinese alchemists mixed together saltpeter, sulfur and charcoal and created a crude gunpowder, according to the American Pyrotechnics Safety and Education Foundation. This wasn't what they were aiming for. They were actually looking for a recipe for eternal life, but what they created changed the world anyway. Once they realized what they had made, the Chinese came to believe that these explosions would keep evil spirits away.

In 1295, Marco Polo brought fireworks to Europe from Asia. (However, Europeans likely were introduced to gunpowder weaponry during the Crusades a few years earlier, according to the Smithsonian.) Then, around the 13th century, gunpowder and the recipes to create it made their way to Europe and Arabia via other diplomats, explorers and Franciscan missionaries, according to the Smithsonian. People in the West still retained the original idea of fireworks, though, and used them during celebrations. Jesters would also entertain crowds with fireworks in medieval England.

**John Adams stated that the great national holiday should be celebrated "with illuminations from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward, forevermore." Long Live the Fireworks**

There are approximately 16,000 Independence Day fireworks displays each year -that's \$1 billion worth of fireworks. As every July 4 brings numerous fireworks-related accidents, some causing injuries and even deaths, many cities and states have passed bans on different types of pyrotechnics; Adams's native Massachusetts, for example, now bans all consumer fireworks.



**BBQ Pork Sandwiches**, is a 4th of July favorite at many picnics, give these a try for some fireworks of a tasteful kind.

**Ingredients:** 1 14oz can of beef broth, 3lbs of boneless pork, 1 18z bottle of your favorite Bar B Que sauce. 12 soft buns

**Directions:** put pork and broth in a slow cooker on high for 4hrs. Remove meat and shred with forks. Preheat oven to 350, put shredded pork in a pan and add Bar B Que sauce and bake for 30 minutes, serve on buns with slaw and a pickle.

### Enjoy a Safe and Fun Independence Day