

# U.S. INDEPENDENCE DAY

## RESOURCE TOOLKIT FOR AMERICAN SPACES

*This Resource Toolkit is designed for American Spaces to create programs and use social media to focus on Fourth of July celebrations.*



## HIGHLIGHTED RESOURCES

- [July 4th eLibraryUSA Scavenger Hunt](#)
- [Smithsonian Digital Collections](#)
- [The Library of Congress](#) collections of downloadable images and music
- Fourth of July Images State Department's [Flickr pages on July 4th](#) and [U.S. flags](#)

## JULY 4TH, A CELEBRATION

Each year, the United States celebrates its national Independence Day on July 4. The holiday commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Americans traditionally honor the day with parades, picnics, barbecues, and fireworks displays.

American Spaces often serve as venues for in-person and virtual programs to commemorate the day. Programs could include:

- Presentation on American history or culture
- Watch party for fireworks and parades
- July 4th celebration with games



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of STATE  
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

## MORE RESOURCES

### ShareAmerica Articles and Videos

- [Americans celebrate the 4th of July \(video\)](#)
- [4th of July: Honoring an American tradition \(photo gallery\)](#)
- [A lot of history happened on July 4](#)

### Live Performances

Each year, the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) hosts *A Capitol Fourth* live broadcast of fireworks and performances. The show will be live streamed on [PBS's site](#), as well as on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) on July 4th at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

### Questions

If your country has an independence day, how do you celebrate it?

How do American's celebrate their independence day?

Is your celebration similar or different to the celebration of the 4th of July? How?



In 1870, Congress passed a law establishing July 4th as a federal holiday to celebrate the 'birth of an independent nation.' At first, not all Americans celebrated the Fourth of July across the United States. Due to differences, mainly political opinions, some Americans did not celebrate the holiday until many years later. Today, July 4th is one of the most popular holidays in the United States and to celebrate groups of friends, neighbors, and family members, gather together in backyards, at the beach, at parks, and other open areas.

### Games

Games are a great way to celebrate and learn - in person and online. Consider creating July 4th trivia using [Kahoot](#) or [Baamboozle](#). Below are games that teach about America's founding and its government.

- [Ben's Games for Kids](#) - Created by the Government Publishing Office, this site has online games for all ages.
- [Revolutionary Choices](#) - In this online game from the American Revolution Institute, players are confronted with real choices that early Americans were forced to make during the American Revolution. The game includes a classroom guide.
- [iCivics](#) - Founded by retired Supreme Court Justice O'Connor, iCivics provides educators lesson plans and games to teach about the U.S. government and the role of the citizen.

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