



Fourth of July (Independence Day) Scavenger Hunt

It's **Independence Day** in the United States! This Fourth of July scavenger hunt will help you learn about Independence Day in the United States and improve your search skills on **eLibraryUSA**.

On **July 4th, 1776**, **The Continental Congress** formally adopted the **Declaration of Independence**, a key document in the history and government of the United States. The document was written by Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Robert R. Livingston, and Roger Sherman. The Declaration of Independence formally announced the **separation of the thirteen colonies** from British rule and contained the famous line, "**All Men are Created Equal**."

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**.

Americans all over the world celebrate the "**nation's birthday**" with outdoor events, such as picnics, backyard barbecues, fireworks, and games. Groups of friends, neighbors, and family members, gather together in backyards, at the beach, at parks, and other open areas. **Washington, D.C.**, the nation's



capital, hosts a televised celebration with musical performances in front of the **Capitol Building** on the **National Mall**.

Scavenger Hunt Questions

Q1. The 4th of July celebrates the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. One of the most famous writers of it was Thomas Jefferson. Using [Kanopy](#), find a film about Thomas Jefferson. What year was it released?

Q2. The Continental Congress was the body that approved the final version of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th. Search [Opposing Viewpoints](#) for an image of the Continental Congress. Who is holding the document in the picture?

Q3. Americans all over the world celebrate Independence Day on July 4th. [Gale: Middle School](#) offers some examples of how Americans decide to celebrate. Name two.



American Spaces

Q4. Celebrations for Independence Day have occurred for over two hundred years, but it wasn't always celebrated the same. A student from Boston University wrote his doctoral dissertation on comparing celebrations in Boston and Philadelphia from 1777-1826. Find it on [ProQuest Dissertations and Theses](#). What was the student's name?

Q5. Learning about the Fourth of July is easy with eLibraryUSA resources. Charles Reagan Wilson published a book chapter available on [JSTOR](#) about the Fourth of July. What series was this chapter a part of?

Q6. Fireworks are a big part of Fourth of July celebrations. Macy's puts on a particularly fantastic show in a famous American city. [Gale Academic OneFile](#) has images of Macy's Fourth of July Fireworks that you can see. What city is this firework display in?



Fourth of July Scavenger Hunt

Answer Key

Q1. The 4th of July celebrates the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. One of the most famous writers of it was Thomas Jefferson. Using [Kanopy](#), find a film about Thomas Jefferson. What year was it released?

- Answer: 2015
- Search Term: 4th of July, Thomas Jefferson
- Citation: Meyer, R. (Director). (2015). Thomas Jefferson [Video file]. Mill Creek Entertainment.

Q2. The Continental Congress was the body that approved the final version of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th. Search [Opposing Viewpoints](#) for an image of the Continental Congress. Who is holding the document in the picture?

- Answer: John Hancock
- Search Term: The Continental Congress, Limit By: Image
- Citation: A depiction of members of the Continental Congress, the first national legislative assembly in the... (2010). In D. Batten (Ed.), Gale Encyclopedia of American Law (3rd ed., Vol. 3). Detroit, MI: Gale.

Q3. Americans all over the world celebrate Independence Day on July 4th. [Gale: Middle School](#) offers some examples of how Americans decide to celebrate. Name two.

- Answer: fireworks, parades, and cookouts
- Search Term: fourth of July, Limit By: Reference
- Citation: Independence Day. (2016). In Gale Middle School Online Collection. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale.

Q4. Celebrations for Independence Day have occurred for over two hundred years, but it wasn't always celebrated the same. A student from Boston University wrote his doctoral dissertation on comparing celebrations in Boston and Philadelphia from 1777-1826. Find it on [ProQuest Dissertations and Theses](#). What was the student's name?

- Answer: Travers, Leonard or Leonard Travers
- Search Terms: USA Independence Day



- Citation: Travers, L. (1992). "The brightest day in our calendar": Independence day in Boston and Philadelphia, 1777-1826. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global.

Q5. Learning about the Fourth of July is easy with eLibraryUSA resources. Charles Reagan Wilson published a book chapter available on [JSTOR](#) about the Fourth of July. What series was this chapter a part of?

- Answer: The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture
- Search Terms: Fourth of July, Limit By: Book Chapter
- Citation: WILSON, C. (2011). Fourth of July. In JACKSON H. (Ed.), The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture: Volume 16: Sports and Recreation (pp. 295-297). University of North Carolina Press.

Q6. Fireworks are a big part of Fourth of July celebrations. Macy's puts on a particularly fantastic show in a famous American city. [Gale Academic OneFile](#) has images of Macy's Fourth of July Fireworks that you can see. What city is this firework display in?

- Answer: New York City
- Search Terms: Fourth of July, Limit by: Image
- Citation: The Macy's Fourth Of July Fireworks In New York. (2010). In UPI Photo Collection.