Festivals and Celebrations

Independence Day

Teacher's Notes

Perhaps the most famous Independence Day in the month of July is that of the United States of America on July 4th, but many other countries also celebrate their independence in July. In the first activity your students will investigate Independence Day in the United States. In activities 2 and 3 they will discover which other countries celebrate an independence day at a similar time of year.

Activity 1: Timed Treasure Hunt

This treasure hunt introduces how this holiday is celebrated in the United States. Students search for the answers to the questions in various websites. They have 15 minutes to find the answers. When they finish, they can summarize (written or oral) the most common ways Independence Day is celebrated in the United States.

Answers:

1. The Declaration of Independence was adopted by the United States Congress to free America from British rule.

2. Thomas Jefferson.

3. Thomas McKean.

4. With military parades and cannon firing.

5. There are parades with baseball teams and high-school marching bands. Then people get together for a picnic or barbecue and in the evening fireworks displays are popular.

6. Over 300,000.

7. With a concert featuring the 1812 Overture with real cannons and a spectacular fireworks display.

8. It lasts 7 days and there are over 200 events.

9. 11.45 am sharp.

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Activity 2: More Independence Days

In this activity students will discover which other countries celebrate their independence at a similar time of year. Students search for the information in the websites given.

Country	Independence day	World region	Independence from
Algeria	5th July 1962	North Africa	France
Argentina	9th July 1816	South America	Spain
Belarus	25th August 1991	Europe	Soviet Union
Belgium	4th October 1830	Europe	Netherlands
Burundi	1st July 1962	Africa	UN/Belgium
Cape Verde	5th July 1975	Africa	Portugal
Colombia	20th July 1810	South America	Spain
Comoros	6th July 1975	Africa	France
Kiribati	12th July 1979	Pacific Ocean	UK
Laos	19th July 1949	Asia	France
Liberia	26th July 1847	Africa	
Malawi	6th July 1964	Africa	UK
Maldives	26th July 1965	Indian Ocean	UK
Peru	28th July 1821	South America	Spain
Rwanda	1st July 1962	Africa	UN/Belgium
Solomon Islands	7th July 1978	Pacific Ocean	UK
Somalia	1st July 1960	Africa	UK/Italy
Vanuatu	30th July 1980	Oceania	France/UK
Venezuela	5th July 1811	South America	Spain

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Activity 3: More Independence Days (continued)

This activity is a fun way for students to familiarise themselves with the countries in activity 2.

The countries listed in activity 2 can be found in this word search:

E	P	I	C	N	I	R	P	D	N	A	E	M	O	T	T	S	B	L	A
G	W	K	A	E	R	A	E	C	S	U	D	B	A	D	N	A	W	R	E
A	I	R	E	B	I	L	R	E	Z	E	N	R	P	U	I	A	G	D	K
S	E	R	D	A	P	O	P	I	L	V	A	N	T	E	N	E	V	L	V
S	A	G	U	A	L	G	E	R	I	A	D	K	E	Z	N	S	G	L	A
O	O	S	Z	M	G	A	U	K	L	N	S	V	C	T	A	T	K	E	N
L	D	M	C	R	F	Z	I	K	M	U	A	W	I	W	E	R	G	A	U
O	R	E	A	Z	O	U	D	I	B	S	O	N	K	R	Y	C	U	L	A
M	U	C	G	L	B	V	F	R	A	C	A	P	E	V	E	R	D	E	T
O	P	O	G	S	I	P	O	I	V	A	D	M	E	R	E	C	U	Z	U
N	I	L	A	C	P	A	R	B	E	L	A	N	T	T	D	B	N	K	A
I	Z	O	E	G	E	I	H	A	E	J	E	Y	N	E	G	S	I	F	B
S	O	M	O	L	R	N	S	T	I	Z	S	A	M	R	F	T	U	A	S
L	M	B	U	R	U	N	D	I	U	R	C	O	M	O	R	O	S	G	E
A	K	I	R	F	R	V	A	E	E	I	H	S	J	C	O	M	W	R	V
N	S	A	I	C	E	O	L	O	D	B	A	S	Y	I	S	A	I	E	I
D	E	N	B	G	L	A	C	R	B	S	O	L	U	F	G	C	U	S	D
S	P	G	E	J	U	B	V	Y	I	A	K	I	R	A	E	G	I	V	L
R	D	F	A	W	S	U	R	A	L	E	B	D	K	T	U	H	K	O	A
O	B	E	L	G	I	U	M	P	S	D	E	E	N	I	W	A	L	A	M

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