

## American Independence Day: Arts and crafts

by Julian L'Enfant

**Level:** A1 Breakthrough (Council of Europe); Starters/Movers (Cambridge YL tests); beginner/elementary

**Target age:** 8 – 10 years

**Time needed:** 1 hour

**Summary:** Making a paper firework

**Materials:** Worksheet 2: Firework template, coloured pencils, scissors, glue/tape

### Procedure

- 1 Show a picture of some fireworks\*. Ask the children if they have ever been to a firework display.
- 2 Give each pupil a firework template.
- 3 The teacher can dictate which colours the pupils use to colour their firework. (It may be a good idea to copy the template on both sides and to colour each side.)
- 4 Show the pupils how to cut the firework along the dotted lines.
- 5 Make the base of the firework by joining the two ends together.
- 6 Display the fireworks in the classroom.

\*Fireworks are banned in many US states these days, but there are often private shows organizing such events on July 4th.

Possible follow-up:

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/books/julyfourth/Flag.shtml>

- A colouring activity. A template of the 13 colonies American flag, 1776 and the current flag with 50 stars.

### Websites and other ideas

<http://www.surfnetkids.com/independenceday.htm>

- Printable American flag

<http://familycrafts.about.com/cs/independenceday/a/060401a.htm>

- Arts & crafts

<http://www.holidays.net/independence/>

### Lincoln Penny Pendant

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/pennypendant/>

Materials:

- Construction paper (red, white and blue)
- White glue or a glue stick
- Scissors
- A hole punch
- String or yarn (red, white or blue)
- A penny

### Printable Books

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/history/us/pres/washington/books/round/>

- A printable book for early readers about George Washington. The book has pages on when he was born, where he was born, the Revolutionary War, being the first President of the USA, wearing false teeth (made of hippo ivory), Washington D.C., and Washington's images on money.

### Craft Stick Flag

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/july4/craftstickflag/>

Materials:

- 9 craft sticks
- Red and white acrylic paint
- Brushes
- Blue construction paper
- Glue
- Either white paper or a white gel pen

### Cascade of Stars

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/stars/cascadeofstars/>

Materials:

- Thick paper, like cardstock or thick construction paper
- A printer
- A drinking straw (one straw for each project)
- Yarn (about 1 1/2 feet of yarn for each project)
- Scissors
- Optional – paint, markers, glitter

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**Arts and crafts: Make a firework**

The form consists of a large rectangular area for drawing. It is divided into two main sections. The upper section contains 12 vertical dashed lines, each serving as a guide for writing or drawing. The lower section is a solid horizontal line that spans the width of the dashed lines, providing a base for the drawing.