

The day of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, celebrated in all states and territories. The observance began in 1777 in Philadelphia.

Independence Day is one of the most important of all American holidays. That's the day that we celebrate our independence from England, who once controlled all of the new colonies in the New World. In 1770, there were only 2.5 million people in America. About 2 million people lived in these colonies and all 2 million people had to pay taxes to England. The people believed this was unfair because even though they paid taxes they had no say in the way they were being governed. One night when three English ships loaded with tea were docked in Boston Harbor, some Americans



like Boston used aboard the ships and threw all the tea into the water. This became known as "the Boston tea party."

This was seen as an act of defiance by the English Crown and England sent many soldiers to America. The English soldiers killed many Americans in what is now called the Boston Massacre. After the Boston Massacre, the colonists formed the Continental Congress which decided that America should declare its independence from England. Thomas Jefferson was appointed to write the Declaration of Independence which was signed July 4, 1776, but this did not guarantee America's freedom from England. Only after defeating England in a war that lasted the five years was America free from England's control. The British army surrendered in General Washington at Yorktown, Virginia in late 1781. The Treaty of Paris, which gave America its own sovereignty, was signed.

1. When is Independence Day? It's on the...  

fourth of July.	fifth of June.	fourth of June.
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2. How do people celebrate it? They...  

go to church.	eat turkey.	have fireworks displays.
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3. When did America become independent? In...  

1765.	1776.	1779.
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4. Who was the first President of the United States?  

Washington	Johnson	Lincoln
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5. What does Independence Day celebrate? It celebrates  
 America's independence from Great Britain.  
 the discovery of America by Columbus.  
 the birthday of the first president of the United States.