



The Mini Page

Next Week:
Our states:
Washington

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Founded by Betty Debnam



America at 250

Mini Fact:

Independence Hall in Philadelphia was originally the Pennsylvania State House.

photo courtesy NPS

On July 4, our nation will celebrate its **semiquincentennial** (SEH-me-kwin-sen-TEN-nee-uhl) — our 250th birthday. On this date in 1776, the Declaration of Independence from British rule was adopted.



In many cities and towns all across the United States, Americans will gather for parades, festivals, concerts and other activities.

Many of these events will be part of America's Block Party on July 3 and 4. For instance, in New York City's Times Square, the sparkling New Year's Eve ball will drop at 11:59 p.m. on July 3. In Los Angeles, a family-friendly concert is scheduled at Memorial Coliseum on July 4. Is your community hosting an America 250 celebration?

What happened 250 years ago?

The Second Continental Congress met on July 2, 1776, in Philadelphia and voted in favor of independence. Two days later, the Declaration of Independence was adopted unanimously.



This 1900 painting by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris shows Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson working on the Declaration of Independence.

The declaration was printed on July 6 in The Pennsylvania Evening Post and was read aloud and published in other cities in the days following.

What's happening this year?

These are just a few of the projects and events Americans can participate in this year.

- **America Gives** is a nationwide volunteer opportunity that involves events for everyone. Organizations partnering with America Gives include the Boys and Girls Clubs, Feeding America, Girl Scouts, Habitat for Humanity, Generation Hope, the Salvation Army and many others. Find volunteer ideas here: america250.org/america-gives/ways-to-give/

- **America's Field Trip** is a contest for kids in grades 3 through 12. Students write an essay or create artwork that answers the question, "What does America mean to you?" You can find more information here: america250.org/fieldtrip/

- **Flag Sojourn 250** is carrying the U.S. flag across all 50 states as well as to U.S. territories and military cemeteries overseas. Its last stop will be in Washington, D.C. You can follow the flag's journey here: nationalflagfoundation.org/nff-sojourn-250-follow-the-flag/



What is patriotism?

During Fourth of July celebrations, we may feel patriotic. But what does that mean?

Patriotism is a sense of feeling attached to one's country and supporting it, even while recognizing where it could be improved. People show patriotism by voting, serving in the military, honoring the flag and other symbols, and working together.

Patriotic songs

Americans often sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" before sporting or other events. Other popular patriotic songs include "America the Beautiful" and "You're a Grand Old Flag."

Do you ever sing "This Land Is Your Land"? This song was written in 1940 by Woody Guthrie, a singer and songwriter who was born in 1912. Guthrie became a



Woody Guthrie

crusader, or supporter, for people who were "outsiders." He wrote songs and spoke out against dishonest politicians and businessmen.

During World War II, Guthrie served in the Merchant Marines and the U.S. Army. He never stopped writing and singing.

Resources



On the Web:

- america250.org
- bit.ly/42zdtEz

At the library:

- "Happy Semiquincentennial, America!" by Jay Payleitner

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Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of America's 250th birthday are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

AMERICA, ART, BIRTHDAY, CONGRESS, CRUSADER, DECLARATION, ESSAY, FLAG, GUTHRIE, HONOR, INDEPENDENCE, MUSIC, PATRIOTISM, PHILADELPHIA, SERVE, VOLUNTEER, VOTE, WORK.

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



Mini Jokes



Ben: Where's the best place to find a helping hand?

Thomas: At the end of your arm!

John: What did one American flag say to the other?

George: Nothing. It just waved!

Eco Note



For decades, scientists suspected that forests might quietly spark with electricity during storms, but only now has that hidden phenomenon been revealed. Researchers from Penn State have shown that treetops can glow with faint, lightning-like energy, invisible to the human eye yet active in shaping the air around us. These subtle discharges produce chemicals that help cleanse the atmosphere, suggesting that forests do more than just store carbon. In the turbulence of a thunderstorm, trees may be participating in a delicate chemical balancing act that improves the air people breathe.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

For later:

Look in your local newspaper for America250 events taking place in your community.

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Cook's Corner

Red, White and Blue Ice Cream Pie

You'll need:

- 1 ready-made graham cracker crust
- 1 pint vanilla ice cream
- 2 cups fresh blueberries
- 1 cup sliced fresh strawberries

What to do:

1. Remove ice cream from freezer and set out at room temperature until soft.
2. Put softened ice cream into a bowl and stir in the blueberries and strawberries.
3. Pour ice cream mixture into pie crust.
4. Cover and place back in freezer for 4 hours or until firm.
5. When serving, stick a little toothpick flag into each slice. Serves 6.



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

1. Collection of tones with melody, harmony and rhythm (5-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □

2. To express in words; make sounds from the mouth (5-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □

3. Musical instrument played by strumming strings (6-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □

4. To change sound into a form that can be preserved (6-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □ □

1. People sometimes clap when they listen to _____ they like.
2. Woody Guthrie used his songs to _____ his opinions.
3. An audience watches a musician pluck _____ strings.
4. Musicians can sing at concerts or _____ their songs.

ROOTONYM®

by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Music, Voice, Guitar, Record.

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