

# July 4<sup>th</sup> quiz: Test your knowledge

TEAM A

Here's a quiz to test just how much the participants in team B know about July 4<sup>th</sup>'s history:

1. On what day did the Second Continental Congress vote in favor of independence from Britain?

- a) July 1, 1776
- b) July 2, 1776
- c) July 3, 1776
- d) July 4, 1776

[The Second Continental Congress started in May, 1775. It was made up of representatives from all 13 colonies. On July 4, 1776 the Congress approved the Declaration of Independence, which was written by Thomas Jefferson. The Second Continental Congress was formed partly to manage the colonial troops fighting the Revolutionary War. Troops fighting for the colonies were known as the militia army led by George Washington.]

3. True or False. As the movie "National Treasure" suggests, there is something written on the back of the original Declaration of Independence.

[According to the National Archives, where the original declaration is housed, the writing on the back, at the bottom of the document, upside down, reads:

"Original Declaration of Independence  
dated 4th July 1776"

No one knows for certain who wrote it, but it appears that it was added as a label because the large parchment document (it measures 29¾ inches by 24½ inches) was rolled up for storage.]

5) What special meaning do the colors red, white and blue on the American flag hold?

- a) blood, sweat and tears
- b) purity, hardiness, vigilance [*Wachsamkeit*]
- c) innocence, valor [*Tapferkeit*], justice
- d) none

[The exact red, white, and blue colors to be used in the flag are specified with reference to the CAUS Standard Color Reference of America, 10th edition. Specifically, the colors are "White", "Old Glory Red", and "Old Glory Blue". From the book "Our Flag" published in 1989 by the House of Representatives, the following is stated: "On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution authorizing a committee to devise a seal for the United States of America. This mission, designed to reflect the Founding Fathers' beliefs, values, and sovereignty of the new Nation, did not become a reality until June 20, 1782. In heraldic devices, such as seals, each element has a specific meaning. Even colors have specific meanings. The colors red, white, and blue did not have meanings for The Stars and Stripes when it was adopted in 1777.]

7) Who was the president of the Second Continental Congress, which declared independence and approved the Declaration?

- a) George Washington
- b) John Adams
- c) John Hancock
- d) Thomas Jefferson

[John Hancock (January 12, 1737 – October 8, 1793) was an early American patriot, a leader in the American Revolutionary War, and an American statesman. He was the first man to sign America's Declaration of Independence. In modern America, "John Hancock" is a synonym for signature. (Do you know the movie "Hancock" with Will Smith?)

9) When did July 4 become a federal holiday?

- a) 1776
- b) 1778
- c) 1870
- d) 1941

[Congress voted to make July 4 a federal holiday in 1870. In 1941, it voted to grant a paid holiday to all federal employees.]

Adapted source: The Washington Post, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/july-4-quiz-test-your-knowledge/2011/07/03/gHQApzBdxH\\_blog.html?utm\\_term=.b7ce54eedeca](https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/july-4-quiz-test-your-knowledge/2011/07/03/gHQApzBdxH_blog.html?utm_term=.b7ce54eedeca), Wikipedia



# July 4<sup>th</sup> quiz: Test your knowledge

TEAM B

Here's a quiz to test just how much the participants in team A know about July 4<sup>th</sup>'s history:

2. Thomas Jefferson was the main author of the Declaration of Independence. To whom did he give the first draft for revisions?

- a) Benjamin Franklin and John Hancock
- b) Robert Sherman and John Adams
- c) John Adams and Benjamin Franklin
- d) Robert Sherman and John Hancock

[The Second Continental Congress initially appointed five people – Franklin, Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston and Thomas Jefferson – to draft a declaration and Jefferson wrote the first draft. Adams and Franklin made initial revisions and more revisions were later made.]

4. How many copies of the declaration were made on July 4, 1776?

- a) 2
- b) 12
- c) 24
- d) 26

[According to the National Archives, 26 copies are known to exist of what is commonly referred to as “the Dunlap broadside,” 21 owned by American institutions, two by British institutions, and three by private owners.

The Dunlap Broadside copies were printed on paper on the night of July 4, – and thus are contemporary with the original Declaration that is engrossed on parchment.]

6) The Declaration of Independence famously begins with these words: “When in the course of human events.” With what words does the text end?

- a) “with liberty and justice for all.”
- b) “we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.”
- c) “all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved.”
- d) “and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states.”

[~Wir versprechen uns gegenseitig unser Leben, unser Vermögen/Glück und unsere heilige Ehre.]

8) When did Britain recognize America as a free country?

- a) 1781
- b) 1782
- c) 1783
- d) 1784



11) Which two presidents died on July 4, 1826?

- a) Jefferson and Adams
- b) Washington and Jefferson
- c) Adams and Monroe
- d) Adams and Trump

[One of the most astonishing coincidences in world history was the deaths of John Adams (90), America's second president, and Thomas Jefferson (83), its third. They both died, 500 miles apart, on July 4, 1826, exactly 50 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence.]

Adapted source: The Washington Post, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/july-4-quiz-test-your-knowledge/2011/07/03/gHQApxBdxH\\_blog.html?utm\\_term=.b7ce54eedeca](https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/july-4-quiz-test-your-knowledge/2011/07/03/gHQApxBdxH_blog.html?utm_term=.b7ce54eedeca); Wikipedia