

*I say to you today, my friends,
that in spite of the difficulties
and frustration of the moment,
I still have a dream. It is a
dream deeply rooted in the
American dream. I have a dream
that one day this nation will
rise up and live out the true
meaning of its creed: we hold
these truths to be self-evident:
that all men are created equal....*

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FROM "I
HAVE A DREAM" SPEECH ON THE
STEPS OF THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL,
AUGUST 28, 1963**

*We have it in our power to begin
the world over again.*

THOMAS PAINE

*If you can't stand the heat,
get out of the kitchen.*

HARRY S. TRUMAN

*Nothing happens unless first
we dream.*

CARL SANDBERG

*For every complex problem
there is an answer that is clear,
simple, and wrong.*

H. L. MENCKEN

*Remember the ladies...If
particular care...is not paid...
we are determined to foment
a Rebellion, and will not hold
ourselves bound by any Laws
in which we have no voice, or
Representation.*

**ABIGAIL ADAMS
IN 1776 LETTER TO JOHN ADAMS**

In 1777, Baltimore postmaster,
printer and newspaper publisher,
Mary Katherine Goddard,
issued the first printed copy of
the Declaration with all of the
signers' names.

1775 Demographics

Total population: 2.5 million

Slave population:

20% of all Americans

50% of all Virginians

67% of all South Carolinians

The Declaration of Independence

Together we sing:

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

O beautiful for heroes proved

In liberating strife.

Who more than self

their country loved

And mercy more than life!

America! America!

May God thy gold refine

Till all success

Be nobleness

And every gain divine!

Reader: The Declaration of Independence is the document that Thomas Jefferson wrote and our Founding Fathers adopted on July 4, 1776, to declare a new nation that embraced freedom and justice for all.



ALL: When in the Course of human events,

Reader: it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another

Reader: and to assume among the powers of the earth,

Reader: the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them,

Reader: a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

ALL: We hold these truths to be self-evident

Reader: that all men are created equal

Reader: that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights

Reader: that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

Reader: That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...

Reader: it is the Right of the People to...institute new Government...

Reader: And for the support of this Declaration

Reader: with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence

ALL: we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

© *A full copy of the Declaration of Independence can be found at www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration.html.*

Celebrate what Life Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness means to your family and friends at www.freedomsfeast.us/independence-day/Celebrating-Life-Liberty-and-the-Pursuit.pdf

Visit us again on Labor Day at www.freedomsfeast.us/labor-day

Most nations cannot claim a specific birth date. America can. Abraham Lincoln, in his famous Gettysburg Address of 1863, stated it simply, "Four score and seven years ago, our forefathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

During that hot summer in Philadelphia in 1776, a group of men gathered in the Continental Congress to decide the fate of a nation. The 56 signers of the Declaration included farmers, businessmen, lawyers, doctors, and a clergyman. They all knew that their decision to declare the 13 colonies independent of Great Britain was an act of treason punishable by hanging. Still, they went ahead.

Liberty is that spirit which is not too sure of itself.

JUDGE LEARNED HAND

Adams and Jefferson were appointed to the committee to write the Declaration of Independence. Years later, Adams recalled the discussion they had at the time. Adams insisted that Jefferson be the principal author while Jefferson proposed that Adams write the draft.

A: *I will not.*

J: *Why?*

A: *Reason enough.*

J: *What can be your reasons?*

A: *Reason first—You are a Virginian and a Virginian ought to appear at the head of this business. Reason second—I am obnoxious, suspected and unpopular. You are very much otherwise. Reason third—you can write ten times better than I can.*

J: *Well, if you are decided I will do as well as I can.*

JOHN ADAMS