

*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.
"I HAVE A DREAM"
CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER
1929-1968

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

THOMAS PAINE, AUTHOR
1737-1809

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

HARRY S. TRUMAN,
33RD US PRESIDENT, 1884-1972

*Nothing happens unless first
we dream.*

CARL SANDBURG, POET, 1877-1957

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

H. L. MENCKEN, JOURNALIST
1880-1956

*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,
2ND FIRST LADY, 1744-1818

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

Freedom's Feast INDEPENDENCE DAY

On-line ceremonies to get the most out of your AMERICAN holiday celebrations.

Together we sing:

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

(3RD STANZA)*

*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.



What truths do you think are self-evident?

Adams and Jefferson were appointed to the committee to write the Declaration. Years later, Adam recalled their discussion. Adams believed Jefferson should be the primary author. Jefferson wanted Adams. **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 three-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, 2ND PRESIDENT 1735-1826

Reader: The ideas in the Declaration were new and bold in the way they were stated.

Reader: They were also hard to live up to. That's what makes the Declaration of Independence so powerful. It requires us to *do* better and to *be* better as a nation.

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Katherine Lee Bates, a professor of English literature at Wellesley College, wrote the words to "America the Beautiful" in the summer of 1893, upon her return from her first trip to the summit of Pike's Peak. First printed in a weekly newspaper, *The Congregationalist*, on July 4th, 1895, her words were soon set to music. They have been sung to numerous tunes, but "Materna" by Samuel A. Ward is the best known. Like Bates, inspired by America's beauty, Ward wrote the tune spontaneously after a day at the seashore.

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: That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends,

Reader: it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and 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.

Enjoy Table Talk: Conversation starters—and explore what Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness mean to your family and friends at www.freedomsfeast.us/independence-day

Make your own American Dream Quilt keepsake at www.freedomsfeast.us/independence-day



LABOR DAY



THANKSGIVING



MLK DAY



PRESIDENTS' DAY



MEMORIAL 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 understood 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 that it is right.

JUDGE LEARNED HAND, US CIRCUIT COURT AND APPEALS JUDGE, 1872-1961

What to the slave is the 4th of July?

FREDERICK DOUGLASS, AUTHOR, ORATOR, ACTIVIST 1818-1895

I had reasoned this out in my mind, there was one of two things I had a right to, liberty or death; if I could not have one, I would have the other.

HARRIET TUBMAN, ABOLITIONIST, ACTIVIST CA 1820-1913

Liberty doesn't work as well in practice as it does in speeches.

WILL ROGERS, COWBOY HUMORIST, ACTOR 1879-1935

They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.

BEN FRANKLIN, FOUNDING FATHER, INVENTOR, WRITER, DIPLOMAT 1706-1790

Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN 16TH PRESIDENT 1809-1865