



In 1774, the First Continental Congress drew up a list of grievances against the British crown. This document was the first draft of the document that would formally separate colonies from England. In 1775, the Revolutionary War began. On July 2, 1776, the Second Continental Congress presented a second draft of the list of grievances. On July 4, the Continental Congress approved the Declaration of independence. But the War of independence lasted until 1783. After the war Independence Day became an official holiday.

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

HEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes moreflary for one People to disfolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to allowe among the Powers of the Earth, the Separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the course which impel them

with another, and to amend smoog to two the Opinions of Mankind requires that they flood decime the cause which imped them to the Separation.

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Signed by ORDER and in BEHALF of the CONGRESS,

JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT.

CHARLES THOMSON, SIGRITALY.

PRIDABELPHIA: PAPERES OF JOHN DUNCAR.

On July 4, Americans have holiday from work. People have day-long picnics with favorite food like hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, baked beans. Lively music is heard everywhere. People play baseball or compete at three-legged races or pie-eating or water-melon-eating contests.







Some cities have parades with people dressed as the original founding fathers who march to the music of high school bands. In the evening people gather to watch firework displays.

Wherever Americans are around the globe they will get together to celebrate Independence Day.







They were European travelers who sailed on "Mayflower" ship and tried to find the New World.

Before their arrival to
America the country was
inhabited by Native
American Indians. However,
when they settled here, life
was quite difficult. There was
nothing to eat and nowhere
to live.





First winter was especially difficult and many people couldn't survive without fresh food. In spring Native Indians taught pilgrims how to survive in America.

They now could hunt, fish and grow plants. In the autumn of 1621 they had a wonderful harvest. To celebrate this occasion pilgrims decided to have a Thanksgiving feast. It meant that they were very thankful for their food.

During this holiday the tables were full of fresh food: corn, beans, turkey, venison, pumpkin. Their Indian friends were also invited to share the feast.



Nowadays Americans continue celebrating this holiday and the main dish is still turkey. The most popular dessert is a pumpkin pie. People in Canada also celebrate Thanksgiving but it falls on every second Thursday of October.

