


Independence Day

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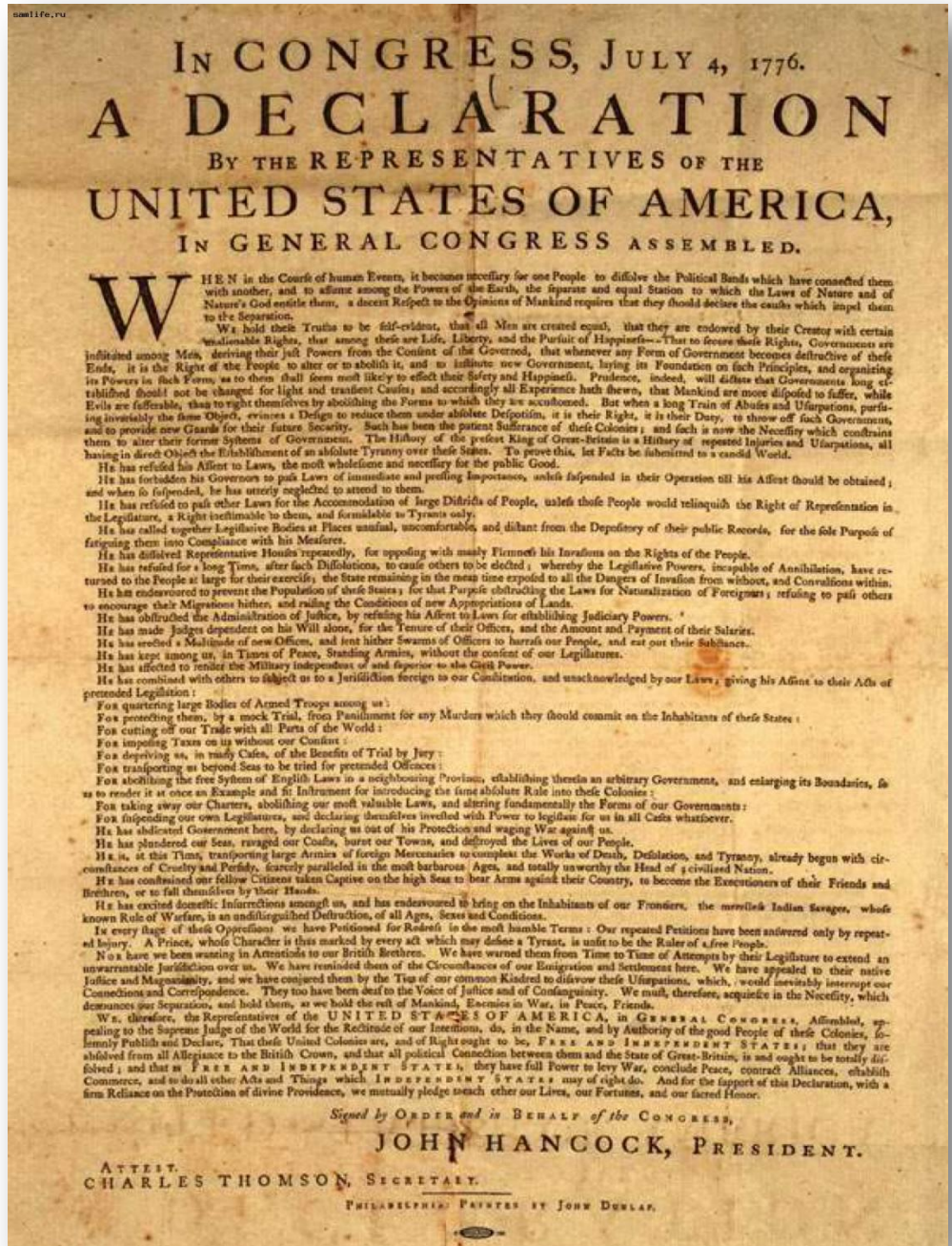
Thanksgiving Day





On July 4 the Americans celebrate their national holiday — Independence Day. The United States gained independence as a result of gradual and painful process. By the mid 1700's, it became difficult for thirteen British colonies in the New World to be ruled by a king 3000 miles across the ocean. The British empire imposed high taxes upon the colonies.

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.



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.



Thanksgiving Day is one of the most favorite holidays in the United States. Every fourth Thursday of October American people celebrate this holiday. They usually stay at home and have a big family dinner. This day has a very important meaning in the history America.





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.



The End!