

to go

Decorate for Independence Day

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was adopted by America's 13 Colonies officially severing ties with Great Britain. This document explained why the 13 Colonies regarded themselves as thirteen independent states and would no longer be under British rule. With the Declaration, these new states took the first step toward forming the United States of America. The Declaration of Independence was drafted by Thomas Jefferson who became our 3rd president.

Each year on July 4th, also known as Independence Day, we take the day to celebrate our country's freedom. Our flag plays a large role in showing pride in our nation and the celebration of our freedoms. Celebrations typically include parades, fireworks displays, musical performances and family picnics. To help show your pride in our country, this week's project has us making a United States flag decoration using corks.



Above: Declaration of Independence, oil on canvas by John Trumbull, 1818, for the rotunda of the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C.



Right: Fireworks over the Casino and the USC Marching Band who typically leads Avalon's 4th of July golf cart parade.



Supplies:

corks, glue, paint, paintbrush and cardboard for base

Instructions:

Step 1 and 2:

Layout your supplies. Spread a generous amount of glue on to your cardboard.

Place corks in rows on the cardboard. Try to keep corks close together and fill the full piece of cardboard.

Place a book on top of the corks to keep them in place and let dry completely. The weight will help the glue and the corks stay connected.



Step 3 and 4:

Paint the 6 corks in the top left blue. Don't forget to paint the sides.

Then paint every other row of corks red. Be sure to paint the edges but be careful not to get paint on the other rows. Let the paint dry.

If you want to hang it, add a ribbon or string to the back cardboard.





INDEPENDENCE DAY

When: July 4th

Where: United States of America

ORIGIN STORY

Independence Day, also called Fourth of July, commemorates the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. The Declaration announced the political separation of 13 North American colonies from Great Britain.

TIMELINE

July 8
1776

First effective celebration took place in Philadelphia. First public reading of the Declaration of Independence, after people were summoned by the ringing of the Liberty Bell.

July 3
1781

Massachusetts became first state to recognize the Fourth of July as an official holiday.

July 4
1801

The White House held its first Fourth of July party.



July 4
1851

The first Horribles Parade was held in Lowell, Massachusetts. This parade is a comical send-up of a stuffy military organization called the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts or the "Ancient and Honorables."

June 28
1870

Congress made Independence Day an official holiday for federal employees who worked in Washington, D.C.

1938

Congress formalized Independence Day as an official paid federal holiday.

July 4
1960

The current 50-star flag debuted after Alaska and Hawaii became states in 1959.



RAFFLE PRIZE:

You could win this Felt Message Board!



Email a photo of your finished artwork to info@catalinamuseum.org or post a photo on social media for a chance to win this prize.

Be sure to tag @catalinamuseum and use the hashtag #arttogocatalina

CRITICAL PEOPLE

THOMAS JEFFERSON

- lead author
- 33 years old

JOHN ADAMS

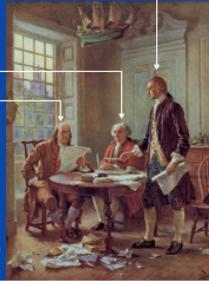
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

ROGER SHERMAN

WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

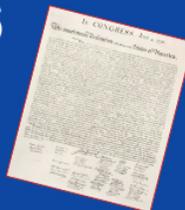
fellow committee members consulted

Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson discussing a draft of the Declaration of Independence, 1776.



John Hancock

John Hancock was the only one to sign the actual Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Others signed later.



2 signers would later become president of the United States

JOHN ADAMS
THOMAS JEFFERSON

HOW IT'S CELEBRATED TODAY

Blasting 15,000+ fireworks every year has become part of the tradition of celebration.



The Macy's fireworks show has been celebrating July 4th over New York City's East River for more than 40 years.

Every Fourth of July, the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia is tapped (not actually rung) 13 times in honor of the original 13 colonies.



Lee Greenwood's patriotic 1984 song "God Bless the U.S.A." gets nearly 25 times more views on July 4th than any other day of the year.

DID YOU KNOW?

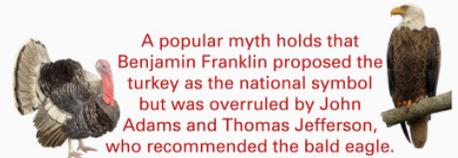
The Declaration of Independence wasn't actually signed (except by John Hancock) on the Fourth of July—that's just the day the document was adopted by the Continental Congress.

One U.S. president, Calvin Coolidge, was born on the Fourth of July, in 1872.

Three U.S. presidents, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Monroe, all died on the Fourth. Adams and Jefferson died within hours of each other in 1826.



There have been 27 different official versions of the U.S. flag, including the first one in 1777. All of the changes have involved the addition of stars.



A popular myth holds that Benjamin Franklin proposed the turkey as the national symbol but was overruled by John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, who recommended the bald eagle.

Great American composer John Philip Sousa wrote 136 marches in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Some of his greatest hits were among the first to be recorded and mass-produced as phonograph records.



CatalinaMuseum.org/art-to-go to download instructions for previous kits

For more projects: CatalinaMuseum.org/education
Questions? Contact us via email at info@catalinamuseum.org or call 310-510-4650

SOURCES:

Eagle photo: AdstockRF
Presidential seal: The White House
Declaration of Independence: © National Archives
Illustration of Franklin, Adams, and Jefferson: © Library of Congress



© Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.