

HANDOUT #1

VOCABULARY LIST FOR HANDOUTS N# 2- 3

a get-together
barbecues
baton twirlers
bell
beverage
blanket
bonfire
colony (ies)
complain
Continental Congress
fireworks
heavy
increase
independent
licked clean
mad
munchies
no one
packed
parade
Parliament
patriotic mood
picnic
probable
rollerbladers
sign
snack
stand for
stunning
taxes
to raise
traditions

HANDOUT # 2

The History of the 4th of July

For more than 100 years, the United States was divided into 13 colonies that belonged to England. In 1763, King George III forced the colonies to pay more and more taxes. Time passed and England continued to increase taxes on almost everything such as paper, glass and tea (it was everybody's favorite beverage at the time.) The colonists couldn't represent and protest in the English Parliament. This made them very mad. "No taxation without representation!" they complained. As a result, many Americans wanted to separate from England and make the 13 colonies an independent country.

Thomas Jefferson and other representatives of the colonies wrote the Declaration of Independence. On July 4, 1776, it was signed by the Continental Congress, and the American colonies were free and independent. [One year later, on July 4, 1777](#), Philadelphia commemorated Independence Day with bonfires, bells, [band music](#) and fireworks. [The custom finally spread everywhere, and the day was marked with processions, public speaking, picnics, contests, games, military shows and fireworks.](#) From then on, every 4th of July, Americans celebrate America's Birthday.

Reading and Comprehension Questions:

1. What country did the 13 colonies belong to?

2. Who was King George, and what did he do in 1763?

3. Why were the 13 colonies mad?

4. What did the colonists decide to do?

5. Where, when and how was America's first birthday celebrated?



HANDOUT #3

FOURTH OF JULY TRADITIONS

Parades, Marching Bands and Music

Parades, which usually begin mid-morning, are the first tradition followed each Fourth of July. The small-town parade, with baseball teams, baton twirlers and the high school marching band, is common in cities across the country. Fathers lift children up on their shoulders for a clear view, while children chew popcorn and wave small flags. It's a fun, inspiring way to get into a patriotic mood.

An important note:

When heading to and from parades, don't forget that traffic will be heavy. Leave extra time to get where you are going, and be extra alert of pedestrians, rollerbladers and bike riders.

Picnics and Family Get-Togethers

After the parade, people usually go home or to a relative's house for a family reunion or a get-together. Although many families stay home and enjoy a relaxing day inside or in the backyard, it's also usual to spend the day at the beach or lake. Many public beaches have barbecues, so family and friends can enjoy hot barbecued ribs or chicken with fresh potato salad and sodas packed in the cooler.

Fireworks

When the parades are over and everyone's fingers are licked clean, the best is still yet to come—the fireworks display.

Fireworks are one of the oldest and most stunning ways to commemorate America's birthday. Frequently the nation's colors—red, white and blue—are used in these spectacular displays of patriotism.

Most large cities in the United States have at least one, if not several, fireworks displays on the night of the Fourth. Although watching the display from an apartment or office is probable to provide a clear view, most agree that the loud booms and crackles are necessary for proper fireworks enjoyment. For real pleasure, relax on a blanket and snack on some munchies.

<http://www.fourth-of-july-celebrations.com/>

HANDOUT #4

FOURTH OF JULY COMMUNITY ACTIVITY WORKSHEET

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Community Activity Name: _____

2. Time, date and location: _____

3. List as many 4th of July traditions you see:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

4. Language Log: Write 5 new words you learned at the 4th of July celebration you attended:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____

5. Write the similarities and differences of the celebration in relation to your native country:

Similarities: _____

Differences _____

