

FUN FACTS ABOUT THE FOURTH OF JULY

America declared its independence from Britain on July 2nd, 1776. However, the declaration wasn't printed in the papers until July 4th, 1776.

Only 2 men signed the declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776. The others signed over the course of the next month.

The average age of the signers was 45 years. The oldest was Benjamin Franklin at 70 years.

There were approximately 2.5 million people living in America in 1776. Today, in New York City alone, there are over 18 million and in all of America, 331, 450, 281.

The Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 men from 13 colonies.

Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence on a small writing desk that fit on his lap. It was known as a laptop.

Robert Stockton, a signer of the declaration, was arrested by the British and thrown in jail. After years of abuse and torture, he

recanted his loyalty to America and was released only to find all his properties destroyed by the British.

According to the History Channel, there is something written upside-down across the bottom of the Declaration. It reads, "Original Declaration of Independence dated July 4, 1776".

Thomas Jefferson, 82, and John Adams, 90 died within 5 hours of each other on July 4th, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

July 4th was not deemed a federal holiday until 1870.

The stars in the original American flag were in a circle so all the colonies would appear equal.

The American flag has had 27 different official versions.

Our current 50 star flag was designed by a high school student as a project assigned by his teacher. The student received a B- on his flag design. He challenged the grade by sending his flag (hand sewn) to Washington DC. Pres. Eisenhower chose his flag

design from thousands submitted. Once his flag was selected, his grade was changed to an A.

The vast majority of US flags are made in China.

Fireworks on the Fourth of July date back to 1777.

Americans spend more than \$1 billion each year on fireworks. Only 10% of these are set off by professionals. This may account for the 12,000 fireworks related ER visits across the country, 70 % experienced by men.

Macy's Department Store, NYC, holds the biggest fireworks display of the holiday blasting off more than 75,000 individual shells at a cost of over \$6 million.

Denmark holds an annual July Fourth event every year since 1812 to celebrate the historic union between the United States and Denmark.

Americans will eat 150 million hot dogs over the July 4th holiday.