

Freedom Then and Now

Week 25 • Thursday • What Independence Means Today

Reading Time

The patriots fought so Americans could be free. But what does **freedom** mean for you today?

Because of the Revolution, Americans can speak their minds, choose their leaders by voting, pray as they wish, and gather with friends. These freedoms are like gifts passed down from the patriots to you.

Every year on the **Fourth of July**, we celebrate America's birthday with fireworks, parades, and flags. It marks the day in 1776 when the colonies declared they were free. When you watch fireworks light up the sky, you are celebrating a promise made long ago — that people should be free.

Reading Questions

1. Name two freedoms Americans have today.

2. What holiday celebrates America's birthday?

3. What year did the colonies declare they were free?

4. Why do we shoot fireworks on the Fourth of July?

Vocabulary Grid

Write what each word means in your own words.

freedom

vote

celebrate

fireworks

parade

flag

Freedoms I Enjoy

For each freedom, write one way you or your family uses it.

Freedom	How we use it
Saying what we think	
Choosing our leaders by voting	
Praying or believing as we wish	
Gathering with friends and family	

Think About It

1. How does your family celebrate the Fourth of July?

2. If you could thank a patriot from long ago, what would you say?

Fill in the Blanks

freedom voting July 1776 fireworks patriots

1. The _____ fought so Americans could be free.
2. _____ means being able to make your own choices.
3. Americans choose leaders by _____.
4. America's birthday is the Fourth of _____.
5. The colonies declared freedom in _____.
6. We celebrate with parades and _____.

Draw It!

Draw your own Fourth of July celebration — fireworks, flags, a parade, or a family picnic!



Review

I learned...	Circle one
Freedoms Americans have today	YES / NOT YET
Why we celebrate the Fourth of July	YES / NOT YET
How freedom connects to my life	YES / NOT YET