Fourth of July Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. The Declaration of Independence bears a date in which year?
   - A. 1776
   - B. 1781
   - C. 1787
   - D. 1791

   Correct answer: A. 1776
   The Declaration is dated July 4, 1776, the day the Continental Congress adopted its text.

2. Which city is home to Independence Hall, where Congress approved the Declaration?
   - A. New York City
   - B. Boston
   - C. Philadelphia
   - D. Baltimore

   Correct answer: C. Philadelphia
   The Second Continental Congress met in the Pennsylvania State House. The Philadelphia building is now called Independence Hall.

3. Which member of the drafting committee wrote the first draft of the Declaration?
   - A. John Adams
   - B. Thomas Jefferson
   - C. Benjamin Franklin
   - D. Roger Sherman

   Correct answer: B. Thomas Jefferson
   Jefferson wrote the draft. Other committee members and then the Continental Congress reviewed and revised it.

4. What do the thirteen stripes on the U.S. flag commemorate?
   - A. The articles of the present U.S. Constitution
   - B. The states added after the Revolution
   - C. The members of the Declaration's drafting committee
   - D. The original thirteen colonies

   Correct answer: D. The original thirteen colonies
   The stripes honor the original colonies. The flag's stars represent states.

5. Which familiar Independence Day spectacle appeared in celebrations as early as 1777?

A. A flag with fifty stars
B. Fireworks
C. An air show
D. A rendition of Sousa's The Stars and Stripes Forever

Correct answer: B. Fireworks
Early Fourth of July observances included fireworks, public readings, feasts, and toasts.

6. Whose prominent first signature appears on the engrossed Declaration?

A. John Hancock
B. Thomas Jefferson
C. Benjamin Franklin
D. John Adams

Correct answer: A. John Hancock
Hancock signed first as president of the Continental Congress. His signature is set prominently above the other names.

7. Which John Philip Sousa composition did Congress designate the national march?

A. Semper Fidelis
B. The Washington Post
C. The Liberty Bell
D. The Stars and Stripes Forever

Correct answer: D. The Stars and Stripes Forever
Federal law names The Stars and Stripes Forever as the national march.

8. Who had the Declaration read aloud to assembled troops in New York on July 9, 1776?

A. Thomas Paine
B. John Hancock
C. George Washington
D. John Dunlap

Correct answer: C. George Washington
Hancock sent Washington a copy. Washington had it read to the troops in New York days after Congress adopted the text.

9. Which motto from the first proposed design survived into the adopted Great Seal?

A. E Pluribus Unum
B. Annuit Coeptis
C. Novus Ordo Seclorum
D. In God We Trust

Correct answer: A. E Pluribus Unum
The first committee proposed E Pluribus Unum, meaning ‘Out of Many, One.’ The motto appears above the eagle in the adopted design.

10. Under federal flag law, on what day is a new star added to the flag after a state's admission?

A. The day the state is admitted
B. The next Flag Day
C. The next New Year's Day
D. The next Fourth of July

Correct answer: D. The next Fourth of July
The new star takes effect on the Fourth of July after the state is admitted.

11. Which was one of the specific grievances included in the Declaration against the British crown?

A. Permitting western states to end slavery
B. Prohibiting a federal income tax
C. Imposing taxes without the colonies' consent
D. Giving new states a vote in Congress

Correct answer: C. Imposing taxes without the colonies' consent
The Declaration included taxation without consent as one grievance among many that the signers used to justify separation.

12. An exhibit needs a document showing Britain officially recognized U.S. independence. Which should it display?

A. The 1776 Declaration of Independence
B. The 1783 Treaty of Paris
C. The 1777 Articles of Confederation
D. The 1787 U.S. Constitution

Correct answer: B. The 1783 Treaty of Paris
The Treaty of Paris ended the Revolutionary War and included Britain's recognition of the United States as independent.

13. Which museum label correctly distinguishes what happened on July 2 and July 4, 1776?

A. July 2: Delegates began signing the parchment. July 4: Congress appointed the drafting committee.
B. July 2: Congress adopted the Declaration's text. July 4: it first voted for independence.
C. July 2: Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation. July 4: it signed a peace treaty with Britain.
D. July 2: Congress voted for independence. July 4: it adopted the Declaration's text.

Correct answer: D. July 2: Congress voted for independence. July 4: it adopted the Declaration's text.
Congress approved the independence resolution on July 2. On July 4 it adopted the text explaining that decision.

14. A July 1776 artifact shows Hancock's name in type and has no handwritten delegate signatures. Which description fits it?

A. An early printed broadside
B. The engrossed parchment that delegates signed
C. Jefferson's handwritten rough draft
D. The signed Treaty of Paris

Correct answer: A. An early printed broadside
Dunlap broadsides carry the text in print, including Hancock's name. Delegates began signing the separate engrossed parchment in August.

15. Which principle best fits the Declaration's argument about when people may replace a government?

A. People derive their rights exclusively from their ruler
B. Any short-lived disagreement justifies dissolving a government
C. A sustained pattern of abuses can justify changing a government
D. A government may withdraw rights whenever it loses public consent

Correct answer: C. A sustained pattern of abuses can justify changing a government
The Declaration cautions against replacing a settled government for temporary causes. It argues that a long pattern of abuses can warrant a change.