

## The Beginning of Independence

The Declaration of Independence was approved on July 4, 1776, by the 2nd Continental Congress leading 13 colonies to gain independence. This holiday of freedom is celebrated with various festivities that include fireworks, parades, concerts, and time with family. There were 56 signers to the Declaration of Independence and among them a committee of 5 (Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Roger Sherman, and Robert R. Livingston) drafted the declaration.

### Then & Now

Population of the 13 Colonies and their representation.

Then			Now	
Signers	Estimated Population*		115th Congress	Population Estimates
Pennsylvania	434,373		18	12,805,537
Virginia	747,610		11	8,470,020
Massachusetts	378,787		9	6,859,819
New Jersey	184,139		12	9,005,644
Connecticut	237,946		5	3,588,184
Maryland	319,728		8	6,052,177
New York	340,210		27	19,849,399
South Carolina	249,073		7	5,024,369
Delaware	59,094		1	961,939
Georgia	82,548		14	10,429,379
New Hampshire	141,885		2	1,342,795
North Carolina	393,751		13	10,273,419
Rhode Island	68,825		2	1,059,639

\*The United States did not conduct its first official census until 1790.

## A New Free Nation

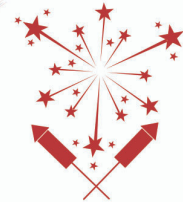
**2.5 Million**

The number of people living in the new free nation in July 1776.



**326 Million**

The nation's estimated population on July 4, 2017.



## Celebrating with a Bang!

- **Approximately \$280 million** - The value of fireworks imported into the United States in 2017.

## Stars and Stripes

- **\$5 million** - The value of U.S. imports of American Flags in 2016.
- **Almost \$30 million** - The value of U.S. flags exported in 2016.



## Barbecues and Picnics

- **About 5,000** - The number of meat markets in the United States.
- **Approximately 650** - The number of snack food manufacturing in the United States.
- **Roughly 700** - The number of nature parks in the United States.



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Source: 2017 Population estimates; 2017 International Trade Statistics; 1790 Census: Whole Numbers of Persons within the District of the U.S. report; Historical Statistics of the United States: 1789-1945 report; Fourth of July Facts for Features; My Congressional District; U.S. Population Clock; and County Business Patterns.



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