



It's been 241 years since the founding fathers declared independence from Great Britain and formed a country of 13 colonies. While we all know that, here are some historical facts you may not know.

In actuality we should be celebrating on July 2. Representatives of the 13 colonies, called the Second Continental Congress, actually voted on July 2, 1776, in Philadelphia to declare independence. John Adams believed that day would be marked with celebrations throughout the nation's history. It wasn't until two days later that a congressional committee approved the final draft. It wasn't until Aug. 2 that delegates signed the document.

Thomas Jefferson wrote the declaration as a formal explanation of why the colonies should secede in June 1776. Its first sentence is a doozy: "When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation." The second sentence is a much catchier – and better known: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

The Revolutionary War started before independence was declared. The battles of Lexington and Concord, in April 1775 in Massachusetts, achieved that. During the Revolutionary War, the colonies were governed by the Articles of Confederation. Over a decade later in 1787, the U.S. Constitution was created to give a central government more power.

Why Americans refer to the holiday as simply the Fourth, rather than Independence Day, is a mystery. The new country hardly recognized an Independence Day. After the War of 1812, copies of the Declaration of Independence began circulating again. It's a possibility that the deaths of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams on July 4, 1826, helped to promote the idea of July 4 as a date to be celebrated.

**FUN FACT :** Americans consume an estimated 155 million hot dogs on the Fourth of July each year!

## NATURAL SUNBURN SOOTHERS

**POTATOES – THE STARCH INSIDE CAN HELP TAKE AWAY THE STING**

**ALOE – TREATS MILD BURNS, REDUCES SWELLING, AS WELL AS PROMOTES HEALING**

**BAKING SODA – BALANCES THE PH OF YOUR SKIN, SOOTHING THE STING**

**VINEGAR – KILLS GERMS AND SOOTHES PAIN**

**OATMEAL – REDUCES THE URGE TO ITCH**



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## SAVE THE DATE

Eagle Heights Community Center  
JULY 1

2-6pm : VENDOR FAIR  
JULY 13

6-8pm : FAMILY TRIVIA

## CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU TO OUR

## YARD OF THE MONTH WINNERS

The Waters Family on Brazil Nut  
Way

The Rodriguez Family of Key  
Lime Court

The Shay Family of Center  
Road

