

Independence Day

July 4

Happy Birthday, America! July 4 is the day that we celebrate our independence from Great Britain. On this day, we have cookouts, watch fireworks, and sing patriotic songs. There are parades and lots of red, white, and blue!



Summary of Activities

Reading: Literature

Going to See the Fireworks!—fictional story with comprehension questions

Reading: Informational Text

All-American Foods—nonfiction passage with a drawing activity

Writing

Free People—activity in which students write about the meaning of freedom

Speaking & Listening

Magic Flag—activity in which students make up a story as a whole class

Vocabulary: fireworks, freedom, Great Britain, independence, revolution



Name _____

Date _____

Going to See the Fireworks!

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions.

It's the Fourth of July. I am going to see the fireworks! I am going with my family. I love fireworks! I love them so much that my dad calls me "Sparkle."

Every July 4, we go to see the fireworks. They are at my church. Lots of people from my town go, too. I go with my mom, my dad, and my brother, Jim.

We take lawn chairs. We take a big blanket. We also take lots of bug spray. We don't want to spend the whole time itching.

We walk over to the church grounds an hour before the show.

"We have to get a good spot," my dad says.

But every spot is good. All you have to do to see the fireworks is look up at the sky.

My mom spreads out the blanket. My dad opens up the lawn chairs. We get ready for the big show. But it has to get dark first. We all wait in the dark.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

The fireworks start! They light up the dark. Red, white, and blue sparks shoot out into the black sky. People say "ooh" and "ahh" when they see the bright sparks!

The fireworks are loud. Sometimes, you have to put your hands over your ears. The fireworks are bright. They turn night into day for just a second.



1. Who is telling this story?
 - a. Jim
 - b. "Sparkle"
 - c. Mom
2. Where are the fireworks?
 - a. at the church grounds
 - b. at the school grounds
 - c. at the baseball field
3. What are the fireworks like?
 - a. cold
 - b. hot
 - c. loud



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Free People

On Independence Day, we think about what it means to be free. We can work where we want to work. We can go to school where we want to go to school. It is our right to live as we want to live. It is not like this everywhere.

What does freedom mean to you? Complete the sentences below. Make sure to end them with periods.

1. Being free means _____

2. Being free means _____

3. Being free means _____



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Magic Flag

In this teacher-directed activity, students create a story as a whole class. Here's how:

1. Bring a small American flag to class. It will be passed from one student to the next.
2. Explain to students that the American flag that you are holding is no ordinary flag. Tell them that it is magic because whoever holds it can tell great stories.
3. Explain that no one is permitted to talk unless that person is holding the flag.
4. Begin a story by making one up yourself that takes place on Independence Day.
5. When you are finished with your story starter, pass the flag to another student who will continue the story for a few more sentences.
6. When that student has finished his or her part of the story, ask him or her to pass the flag to another student.
7. Continue this way until a student decides to complete the story. Alternatively, if you want the story to be completed, indicate to students in a prearranged way. Perhaps at the beginning you all agree on a sign that will mean "wrap it up."

