

4th of July Edition

July 4, 2026

# THE Weaver Wonders



## Brief History of America's Freedom (1776-2026)

### **The Birth of a Nation (1776-1791)**

In 1776, the American colonies declared their right to exist as a free and independent nation. The Revolutionary War tested the resolve of a fledgling country against the might of the British Empire. Victory secured not just independence but a vision of self-governance. The U.S. Constitution of 1787 and the Bill of Rights in 1791 cemented the foundation of American liberty, promising protections for speech, religion, and individual rights.

### **Expanding Frontiers and the Struggle Against Slavery (1791-1865)**

The young nation grew westward, energized by dreams of opportunity. Yet, the expansion of freedom was shadowed by the continued existence of slavery. The contradiction between the ideals of liberty and the reality of human bondage fueled political debate and social unrest. The abolitionist movement gained strength, and the Civil War of 1861-1865 became the turning point, with the 13th Amendment finally abolishing slavery and redefining the meaning of American freedom.

### **Reconstruction, Industry, and the Emergence of a Global Power (1865-1945)**

Following the Civil War, Reconstruction sought to extend freedom and civil rights to formerly enslaved people, but progress was uneven and often met with resistance. Meanwhile, the United States transformed into an industrial powerhouse and a destination for immigrants seeking liberty and opportunity. By the mid-20th century, America's participation in World Wars I and II elevated it as a global defender of democracy, reinforcing the nation's identity as a beacon of freedom.

### **Civil Rights and Social Transformation (1945-2001)**

After World War II, the fight for civil rights at home intensified. The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s brought landmark changes, dismantling segregation and affirming equal protections under the law. Social movements in the following decades expanded freedoms for women, LGBTQ+ citizens, and other marginalized groups. Internationally, the United States promoted

democratic values, often positioning itself as a counterweight to authoritarian regimes during the Cold War.

### **Liberty in a Complex World (2001-2026)**

The 21st century presented new challenges to American freedom. The attacks of September 11, 2001, led to heightened security and debates over privacy and civil liberties. Political polarization, technological change, and demands for social justice reshaped the national conversation about what freedom means today. As the United States reaches its 250th anniversary in 2026, the nation reflects on its journey—an ongoing story of resilience, struggle, and hope for a more inclusive liberty.

### **Conclusion**

Across 250 years, America's freedom has evolved from a revolutionary ideal into a complex, lived experience. Each era tells its own story of progress and tension, reminding us that liberty is a legacy carried forward through continual effort and renewal.



# THE Weaver-Wonders

## 4th of July Multiple-Choice Trivia Quiz

**Question 1: What is celebrated on the 4th of July?**

- A) The signing of the U.S. Constitution
- B) U.S. Independence from Great Britain
- C) George Washington's birthday

**Question 2: Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?**

- A) Thomas Jefferson
- B) Alexander Hamilton
- C) James Madison

**Question 3: How do Americans typically celebrate the 4th of July?**

- A) Fireworks, parades, barbecues, and patriotic displays
- B) Trick-or-treating and costume parties
- C) Gift-giving and decorating Christmas trees

**Question 4: Which city hosted the first 4th of July fireworks display?**

- A) New York City
- B) Philadelphia
- C) Boston

**Question 5: What do the colors of the U.S. flag represent?**

- A) Courage, Success, and Peace
- B) Valor, Purity, and Justice
- C) Freedom, Power, and Unity

**Question 6: When did the 4th of July become a federal holiday?**

- A) 1789
- B) 1870
- C) 1945

**Question 7: Why are fireworks a tradition on Independence Day?**

- A) They represent the nation's pride and the "rockets' red glare"
- B) They scare away bad spirits
- C) They honor the Founding Fathers' birthdays

**Question 8: What is the significance of the Liberty Bell on the 4th of July?**

- A) It rang to announce the end of the Civil War
- B) It symbolizes American independence and freedom
- C) It serves as the official bell of Congress

**Question 9: How do small towns celebrate the 4th of July differently than big cities?**

- A) Small towns have local parades, picnics, and community events
- B) Small towns host huge concerts like big cities
- C) Small towns celebrate with international fireworks competitions

**Question 10: Which U.S. president was born on the 4th of July?**

- A) Thomas Jefferson
- B) Calvin Coolidge
- C) Abraham Lincoln

Answers on page 4





# THE Weaver Wonders

## America's 250th Anniversary Word Search

### Instructions:

Celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States with this patriotic word search! Find all the hidden words related to American history, symbols, and traditions. Words can appear **horizontally, vertically, diagonally, and backwards**. Circle or highlight them as you find them!

### Word List:

- FREEDOM
- LIBERTY
- INDEPENDENCE
- FLAG
- JULY
- COLONIES
- AMERICA
- FIREWORKS
- BARBECUE
- FOURTH
- DECLARATION
- PARADE
- SUMMER
- STATES

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Enjoy solving this puzzle and celebrate our nation's 250 years of freedom!





# THE Weaver Wonders

## 4th of July Recipes

Here are some festive 4th of July recipes to celebrate the holiday:

### 1. Grilled BBQ Chicken Skewers

- Marinate chicken chunks in a mix of BBQ sauce, honey, garlic, and paprika.
- Thread onto skewers with bell peppers and onions.
- Grill until the chicken is cooked through and slightly charred. Serve with extra BBQ sauce.

### 2. Classic Potato Salad

- Boil diced potatoes until tender.
- Mix with mayonnaise, Dijon mustard, chopped celery, red onions, and hard-boiled eggs.
- Season with salt, pepper, and a sprinkle of smoked paprika.

### 3. Watermelon Feta Salad

- Combine cubed watermelon, crumbled feta cheese, and fresh mint leaves.
- Drizzle with a splash of balsamic glaze or fresh lime juice for a refreshing side dish.

### 4. Patriotic Berry Parfaits

- Layer vanilla yogurt with fresh blueberries and sliced strawberries in a clear glass.
- Top with granola or a dollop of whipped cream for a festive red, white, and blue dessert.

### 5. Sparkling Berry Lemonade

- Mix fresh lemonade with sparkling water.
- Add blueberries, strawberries, and a few lemon slices.
- Serve over ice for a refreshing holiday drink.

These recipes are perfect for a backyard barbecue or picnic and bring a colorful, patriotic touch to your table!



## Trivia Answers

Question 1: B

Question 2: A

Question 3: A

Question 4: B

Question 5: B

Question 6: B

Question 7: A

Question 8: B

Question 9: A

Question 10: B

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