The Fourth of July

The Fourth of July is also called *Independence Day*. It is a federal holiday. Schools, banks, post offices, and government offices are closed on the Fourth of July. The Fourth of July is the United States' most important national holiday because it celebrates the Declaration of Independence.

The Declaration of Independence announced America's independence from Britain. It was adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4th, 1776, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Thomas Jefferson (the third president of the United States) was the main writer of the Declaration of Independence.

Many parades are held on the Fourth of July.

Popular foods eaten on this day are hot dogs and hamburgers. Many people have barbecues in their backyards. Watermelon eating contests are popular on the Fourth of July.

Fireworks are very common in the evening of the Fourth of July.