



July 4th Activity Pack

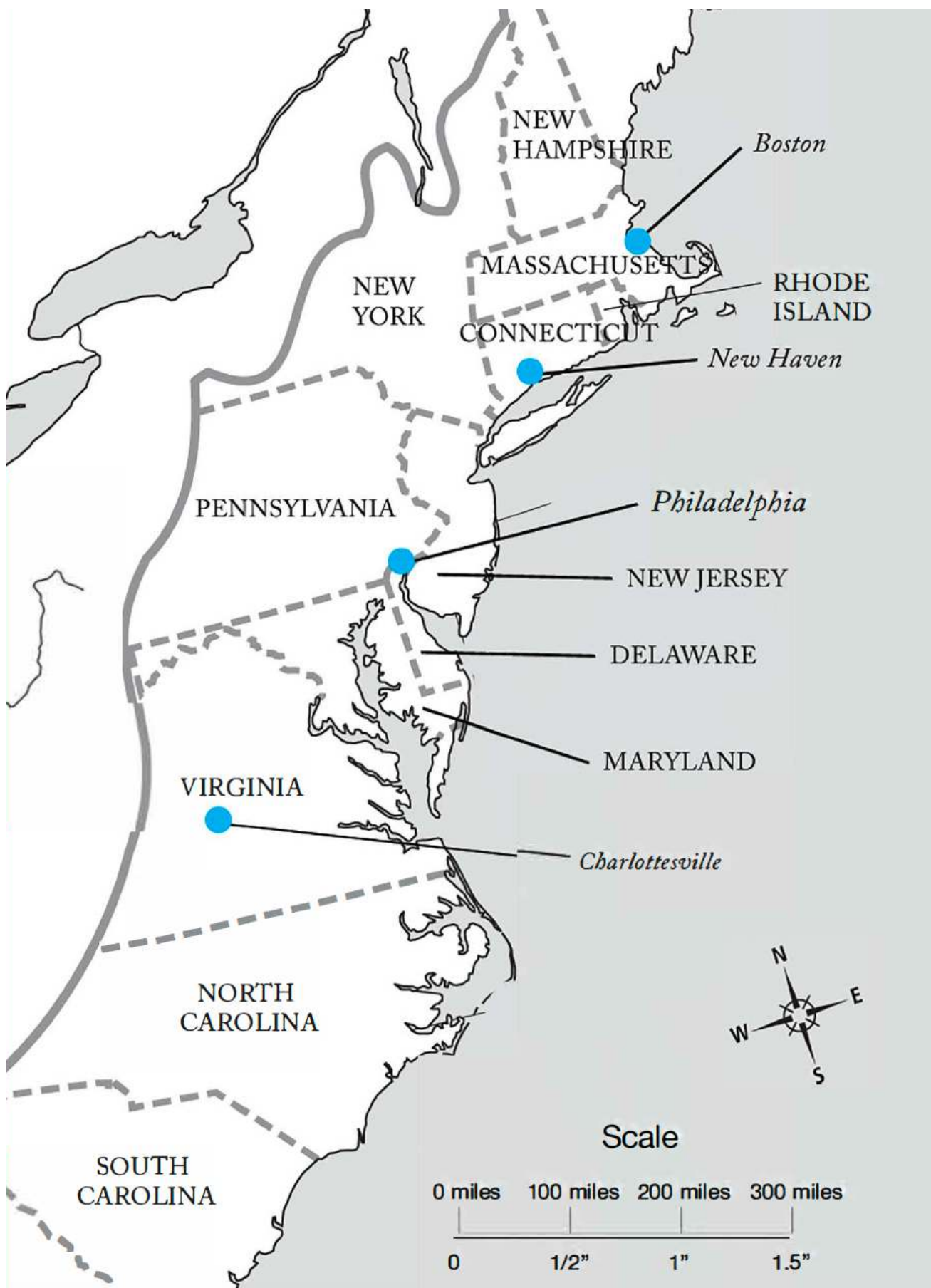
A Trip to Philadelphia!

Nowadays, you can travel from Boston to Philadelphia in hours. All you need is a car, train, or plane! But in 1776, our Founding Fathers had none of these options. When John Hancock (Boston, Massachusetts), Roger Sherman (New Haven, Connecticut), and Thomas Jefferson (Charlottesville, Virginia) needed to attend the first Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, even a shiny new four-horse carriage could only be expected to travel 7-8 miles per hour for no more than 8 hours a day so the horses could rest.

How long would it have taken for an overland journey back then? Here's a chance to take a trip back in time to find out! You'll use a historical map and a little math to take the trip yourself!

Do the following on the map on the next page:

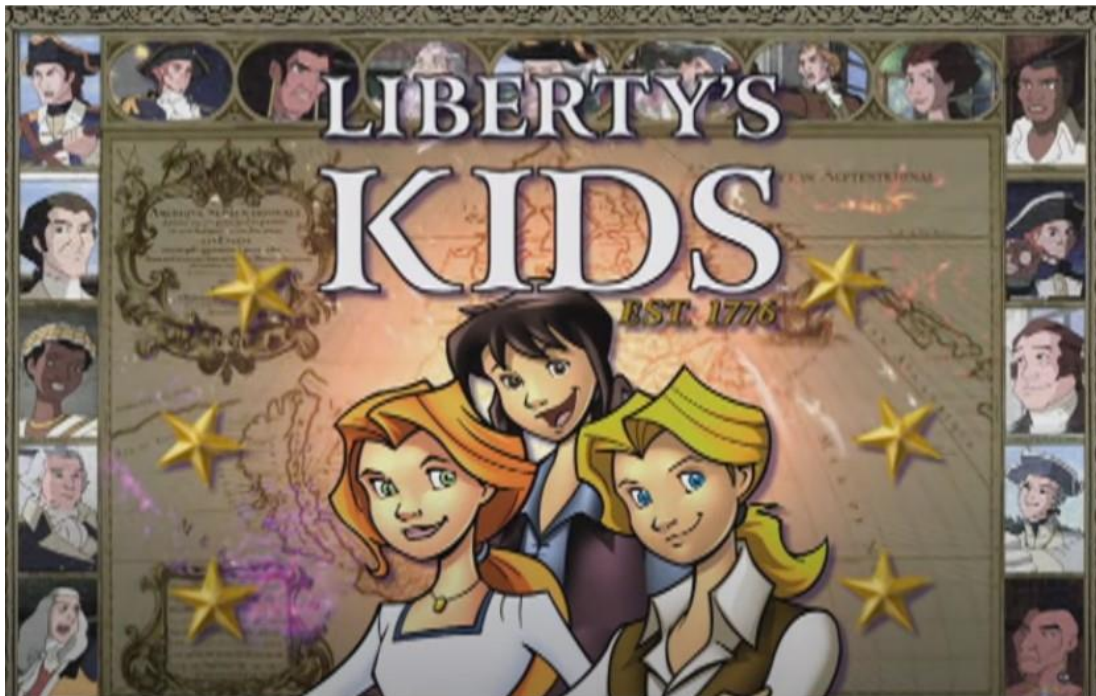
1. Mark Philadelphia with a star.
2. Find the hometown of each of the following men and mark it with an X:
 - a. John Hancock
 - b. Roger Sherman
 - c. Thomas Jefferson
3. Since we don't have an accurate map showing the colonial roads in 1776, we'll do this activity *as the crow flies*. If you don't know what that expression means, ask an adult or do some research to find out.
 - a. Draw a line between each man's hometown and his destination for the first Continental Congress meeting--Philadelphia.
 - b. Using the map legend, calculate the distance each man would have had to travel to get from his hometown to the meeting.
4. Use the information from question #3 to calculate how long it would have taken each man to make the trip if he had traveled 8 hours a day at the rate of 7 mph. How many miles could each man have traveled in a day?
5. Use the information from previous questions to determine how many days it would have taken each man to reach Philadelphia based on your calculations. (Remember your calculations were done as the crow flies and don't represent an exact number of miles or travel days, but this will give you a rough idea of travel times compared to today.)





[The Ultimate Break-Up Letter](#)

This song, “Too Late to Apologize,” is satirical video. Ask an adult or do some research to find out what a *satire* is. Based on your research, what do you think it means when you read that this song is *satirical*? (Use additional paper if needed.)



Liberty's Kids – The First 4th of July

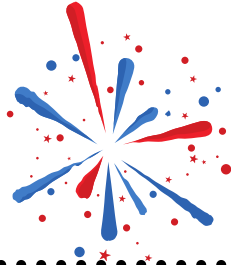
This episode of Liberty's Kids is about the first 4th of July! John Adams convinces Congress that independence is the only answer to the problems in the colonies, Thomas Jefferson is asked to write the first draft of a "Declaration of Independence," and Ben Franklin realizes it's important for the people in the colonies to support each other and work together.

Write a short letter to King George telling him why you (and the other colonists) are upset. (Remember that, at this time, you are still a British subject, and King George still has the authority to help you.) (Use additional paper if needed.)

The United States of America declared Independence in what year?

- a. 1879
- b. 1776
- c. 1676
- d. 1789

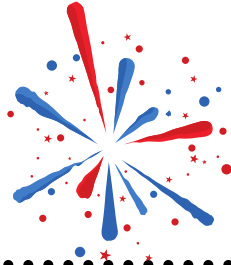
1



Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

- a. John Hancock
- b. George Washington
- c. Thomas Jefferson
- d. John Jay

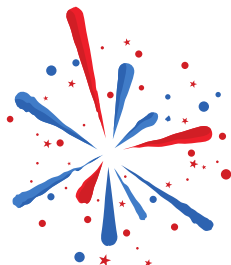
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How many people signed the Declaration of Independence?

- a. 56
- b. 13
- c. 32
- d. 25

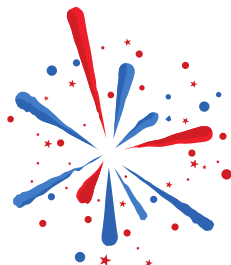
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Fourth of July celebrations increased heavily in the U.S. after what war?

- a. War of 1812
- b. American Civil War
- c. WW I
- d. WW II

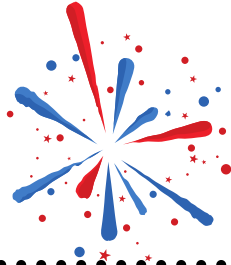
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Which city was the first to celebrate Independence Day on July 4th?

- a. Norfolk, VA
- b. Washington D.C.
- c. Philadelphia, PA
- d. New York, NY

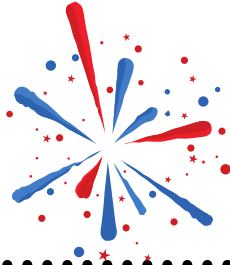
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In what year did Independence Day become a legal federal holiday?

- a. 1776
- b. 1876
- c. 1941
- d. 1951

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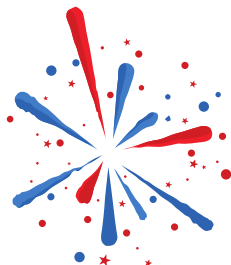


The oldest man to sign the Declaration of Independence was Benjamin Franklin.

TRUE

FALSE

7

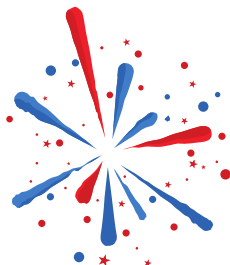


All 13 colonies voted to approve the Declaration of Independence.

TRUE

FALSE

8

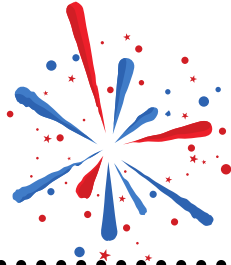


Three U.S. Presidents have died on July 4th.

TRUE

FALSE

9

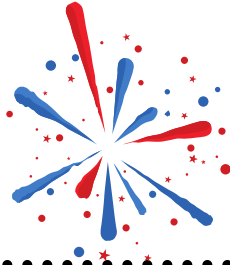


All Americans celebrate Independence Day.

TRUE

FALSE

10

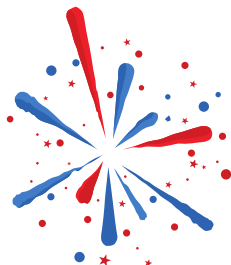


John Adams made the first motion to declare independence.

TRUE

FALSE

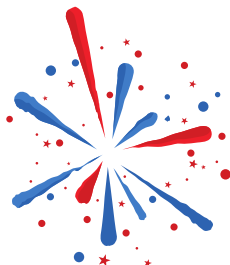
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In 1778 George Washington celebrated Independence Day by giving his soldiers what?

- a. Rum
- b. New uniforms
- c. Whiskey
- d. New weapons

12



Answers to Let's get to Philadelphia

Sherman would have needed to travel 200 miles, taking 3.5 days, moving eight hours a day with no days off.

Jefferson would have traveled 300 miles, taking 5.3 days, and Hancock would have traveled the furthest: 350 miles, 6.25 days.

These are just approximations and do not consider things like road washouts, buggy issues, or situations with the horses.

It makes the achievements of our Founding Fathers all that much more impressive.

Answers to Task Cards

- 1.B
- 2.C
- 3.A
- 4.A
- 5.C
- 6.C
- 7.True
- 8.False
- 9.True
- 10.False
- 11.False
12. A

