

Common Myths about the Fourth of July



Myth: The Fourth of July has been a legal holiday since the American Revolution.

Myth: The Liberty Bell developed its famous crack when it was rung too hard on July 4, 1776.

Myth: The 56 members of the Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

Myth: The Continental Congress celebrated the Declaration publicly on July 4, 1776 with a reading of the document.

Myth: The Declaration of Independence was unanimously supported by the members of the Continental Congress.

Myth: There were fireworks on July 4, 1776.

Group Assignment

1. Explain the myth that your group has been assigned, answering these three questions:
 - What is a truth in this myth?
 - What are other truths behind this myth that might contradict it?
 - What does the myth reveal about those who believe it?
2. As a group, you may use any of the materials available to help you understand and explain the myth.
3. Prepare a five-minute presentation to the class that explains your understanding of the myth, using creative drama, visual aids such as posters, music, illustrations, or an oral presentation.