Fireworks and Safety

Attend a public display

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Historical uses of Fireworks

The discovery of gun powder and the invention of the first fireworks (bamboo cases or rolled paper tubes filled with explosives) are traditionally credited to the Chinese, although India is also a likely source. The sound of these first firecrackers, which appeared about 1,000 years ago, was so loud that the Chinese believed the noise would scare away evil spirits. Then almost any event –a birth, death, wedding, coronation or New Year celebration—became a fit occasion for the noisemakers.

Fireworks made their way to Europe sometime in the 13th century, probably carried back from the East by Crusaders. Their popularity grew, and by the 15th century they were widely used for religious festivals and public entertainment.

The Italians were the first Europeans to manufacture fireworks and were the undisputed European masters of fireworks-making through the end of 17th century.

When was the first ban on the mischievous use of fireworks?

Fireworks in America

The earliest settlers brought their love of fireworks to the new world, where firings of black powder were used to celebrate holidays and impress the natives. Pranksters in the colony of Rhode Island caused enough problems that in 1731a ban was established on the mischievous use of fireworks.

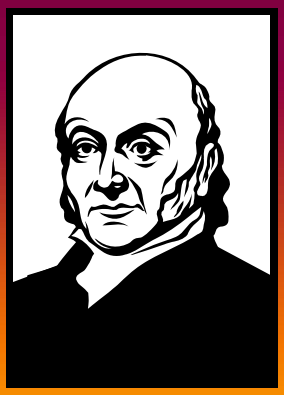
By the time of the American Revolution, fireworks had long played a part in celebrating important events. It was natural that not only John Adams, but also many of his countrymen, should think of fireworks when independence was declared.

The very first celebration of Independence Day was in 1777, six years before Americans knew whether the new nation would even survive the war, and fireworks were a part of the revelry.

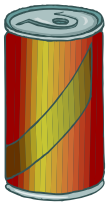
But, more than anything else, when you think of fireworks, you think of the Fourth of July and the celebration of our nation's independence.

Adapted from the American Pyrotechnics Association website at www.americanpyro.com

"The day will be the most memorable in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival...It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade... and illuminations (fireworks) from one end of it to the other, from this day forward forevermore."



John Quincy Adams



Celebrate Safely

Only adults should light fireworks and handle matches and lighters. Families should set boundaries and talk about celebrating safely. Families should also use care in selecting the area for discharge of fireworks, and the type of fireworks appropriate for that area. Weather conditions make grasses and other vegetation dry and vulnerable to fire.

Be Prepared…
before lighting fireworks

- Use legal fireworks, available at licensed outlets.
- Secure fireworks out of children's reach.
- Keep pets safe indoors.
- Always keep water handy.

Be Safe…
when lighting fireworks

- Only adults should light fireworks.
- Only use outdoors.
- Do not throw fireworks or hold in your hand.
- Protect your eyes.
- Light one firework at a time and move away quickly.
- Never relight a "dud".

Be Responsible…
After finishing

- Soak used fireworks in water.
- Be considerate--clean up used fireworks.
- Keep matches and lighters away from children.
- HAVE A SAFE AND FUN FOURTH OF JULY!

Food For Thought

When we celebrate we often eat our favorite foods. Do you know what country your favorite food originated from? Select your favorite food from those on this page. Then check the back page to learn where it originated from. Do you have ancestors that immigrated to America from that country?

What Language is this?	Can you solve this language barrier and find the safety message?	
No tire ni retenga fuegos artificiales en las manos.	**Ñöøng quaêng phaùo boâng hay caàm phaùo boâng treân tay quyù vò.**	**Не кидайте піротехнічні засоби і не тримайте їх у руці.**

See back page for answers.

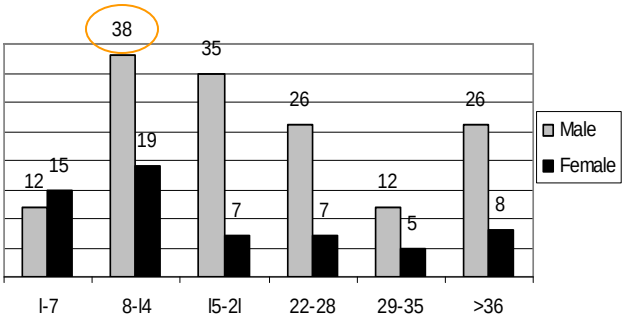
Pyrotechnician

In Washington State, a person that performs a public fireworks display must have a Pyrotechnic Operators License from the State Fire Marshal's Office. This license permits the pyrotechnician to perform public displays throughout the year.

To become licensed, each pyrotechnician must assist with three shows, pass a background clearance and pass a test based on the fireworks law.

Pyrotechnic Operators are required to provide to the State Fire Marshal's Office a report from each display performed, reporting any misfires, injuries or fires.

Fireworks Related Injuries by Age and Gender



Fireworks Injuries

Fireworks related injury statistics above show that boys ages 8-14 are most often injured. According to the Center for Disease Control, children are 11 times more likely to be injured by fireworks if there is no adult present.

Only adults should light fireworks. When adults are not present, fireworks should be put away in a secure place.

Stay away from illegal fireworks. Powerful illegal fireworks can cause amputations and other life altering injuries. If you find any fireworks, don't touch them, tell an adult.

Did You Know?

There are over 100 fireworks displays across Washington State every July 4.

Check the website below to find a display near you.

http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/docs/fireworks/fireshow.pdf

Check Out These Websites

Create a Fireworks Display
http://www.nfpa.org/sparky/fireworks/design/fireworks1.htm

Visit a Fireworks Stand
http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/docs/fireworks/flash/index.htm

Fireworks Trivia Challenge
http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/trivia/trivia.htm

Think About It

What is a life-altering injury? If you could not use your hand what would be hard to do?

Stop. . . Think.
Don't touch, tell an adult.

Other Fun Ideas . . .

Re-enact an event from the Revolutionary War.	Paul Revere's Ride Frances Scott Key's Detainment Declaration of Independence	Check on line at: http://www.multied.com/revolt/

The Star Spangled Banner

O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Write a Poem

Write a modern verse to the "Star Spangled Banner" in the space provided. Think about what has happened to our nation since Frances Scott Key wrote his poem. What would you include in your poem?

Answers: Front Page
In 1731 the mischievous use of fireworks were banned due to pranksters.

Answers: Food for thought
Hamburger – Hamburg, Germany
Ice cream – China
Watermelon – South Africa
Carbonated Beverages – Natural Mineral Springs
Hot dogs – Frankfort, Germany
Corn on the Cob – America
Country Fried Chicken – America
Potato Chips – New York also England

Answers: What Language is this?
Spanish
Vietnamese
Ukranian
Message: Do not throw fireworks or hold in your hand.

Frances Scott Key

On Sept. 13, 1814, Francis Scott Key met with the British fleet in Chesapeake Bay to negotiate the release of Dr. William Beanes, captured after the burning of Washington, DC. Key was detained on ship overnight during the shelling of Fort McHenry, one of the forts defending Baltimore. In the morning, he was so gratified to see the American flag still flying over the fort that he began writing a poem to commemorate the occasion. First published under the title "Defense of Fort McHenry," the poem soon attained wide popularity. "The Star-Spangled Banner" was officially made the national anthem by Congress in 1931.

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celebrate safely campaign