

LAUGH AND LEARN

THREE JULY HOLIDAYS

Liberty is always dangerous, but it is the safest thing we have. ~ Harry Emerson Fosdick

THE LEARN

July 4, 5 and 6 are holidays in either the United States of America or the Czech Republic. Since we appreciate the values of all three days, Nancy and I celebrate internationally during this week.



JULY 4, INDEPENDENCE DAY FOR THE U.S.A

Independence Day Vocabulary

1. Independence Day is an American holiday which celebrates the independence of the United States from Great Britain, a result of the (*adoption/adaptation*) of the Declaration of Independence which was (*signed/signature*) on July 4, 1776.

2. On this day, there are (*numeral/numerous*) events all across the United States which celebrate the country's history and traditions.

3. The Fourth of July (which is how Independence Day is commonly referred to) is often (*assassinated/associated*) with fireworks, and there are some fantastic fireworks (*displays/portrayals*) all across the USA.



4. Many families spend the Fourth having a (*picnic/food*) or a barbecue.

5. People often (*decorate/color*) their houses or businesses in red, white, and blue - the colors of the American flag.

6. The most common decorations used are streamers, (*balloons/balls*), and banners, as well as cutouts of Uncle Sam and other patriotic figures.

7. This is the most (*patriotic/patriarchal*) or all American holidays.

8. Another common way to spend the Fourth of July is by (*attending/tending*) a concert, or watching one of the many Independence Day parades.

9. Because this holiday is in July, many of the celebrations happen (*outdoors/outwards*).

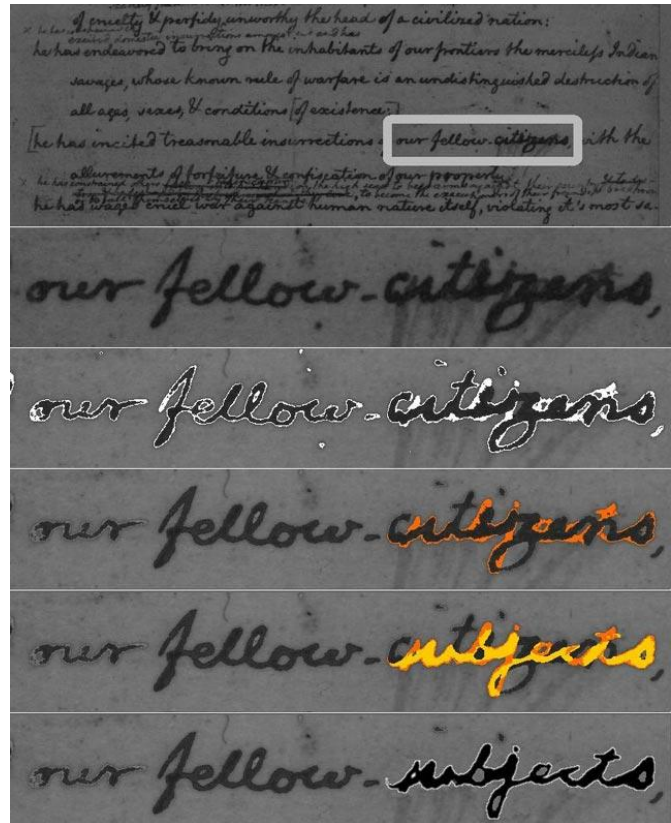
AMAZING 2010 INDEPENDENCE DAY DISCOVERY

A word change teaches us how important words are.

High-resolution camera images of a draft of the Declaration of Independence reveal that it originally used the word 'subjects' instead of 'citizens' in an important phrase. After writing "our fellow **subjects**," author Thomas Jefferson erased it and wrote over the space "our fellow **citizens**."

To the Library of Congress, it reveals an important moment when [Jefferson] rethought his choice of words to express the concept that the people of the 13 colony states were no longer subjects of any nation, but citizens of a new democracy.

It was a spine-tingling moment when she realized there was a word underneath citizens, said scientist Fenella France, who revealed the correction.



JULY 5, ST. CYRIL AND ST. METHODIUS DAY

The brothers Methodius and Cyril grew up in Thessalonica as sons of a prominent Christian family. Because many Slavic people settled in Thessalonica, it is assumed Cyril and Methodius were familiar with the Slavic language. Methodius, the older of the two brothers, became an important civil official. He grew tired of worldly business affairs and entered a monastery. Cyril became a scholar and a professor known as "the Philosopher" in Constantinople. In 860 Cyril and Methodius went as missionaries to what is today the Ukraine.

When the Byzantine emperor decided to honor a request for missionaries by the Moravian prince Rastislav, Methodius and Cyril were the natural choices; they knew the language, they were able administrators, and had already proven themselves successful missionaries.



Arriving in 863 in Moravia, Cyril began translating the Bible and Christian liturgy into Slavonic. Cyril and Methodius were dedicated to the value of communication in a people's native language. Throughout their lives they would battle against those who saw value only in Greek or Latin. Cyril developed a script for Slavonic known first as glagolitic. This was later upgraded into Cyrillic which is named after Cyril. The Cyrillic alphabet became the world's third official alphabet, after Latin and Greek. Thus, the Byzantine missionaries contributed enormously to the development of culture and literature of the Slavs.

JULY 6, JAN HUS DAY



There is no doubt that Jan Hus was and is one of the signally important figures of Czech history. If the number of statues and squares bearing someone's name can testify to their significance, then Hus, dominating the Old Town Square in Prague and with streets bearing his name in almost every city, is still a dominating presence. In polls asking which historical figures the Czechs regarded with pride, Hus is always among the first four names for frequency.

Hus was Dean of Charles University, a scholar and writer as well as a preacher. He is credited with the reforms in Czech system for writing and spelling [orthography] which

introduced diacritics.

Hus' most famous words were on truth: *Hledaj pravdy, slyš pravdu, uč se pravdě, miluj pravdu, braň pravdu až do smrti, neboť pravda tě vysvobodí.*

*"Search truth, hear truth, learn truth, love truth,
defend the truth till death, because the truth will deliver you."*

Jan Hus learned this principle from Jesus who taught, "... you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." [Gospel of John 8:32]

From Jan Hus comes the Czech Republic's motto is *"pravda vítězí-truth prevails."*

Hus' significance for Czech history is as a religious reformer and nation builder, and as the symbol of a strategy toward an oppressive power, a situation which for Czechs has been more familiar than self-determination. In his insistence on truth and transcendence, he becomes the Czech model.

Jan Hus was a Czech religious thinker, philosopher, reformer, and master at Charles University in Prague. The Roman Catholic Church considered the teachings of John Hus heretical; consequently Hus was condemned by the Council of Constance, and burned at the stake in 1415. Nearly six centuries later in 1999, Pope John Paul II expressed "deep regret for the cruel death inflicted" on Hus.

Answers: *signed; numerous; associated; displays; picnic; decorate; balloons; patriotic; attending; outdoors*

THE LINKS

Happy Fourth of July from Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1983

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOxWtH7-Qfk>

JOHN HUS MORAVIAN CHURCH <http://johnhusmoravianchurch.com/default.aspx>

Largest July 4th Fireworks Display in America

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzL4L_FpLvE

THE LAUGHS

You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, eat potato salad and hamburgers, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism. ~Erma Bombeck



What happened as a result of the Stamp Act? **The Americans licked the British!**

Why did Paul Revere ride his horse from Boston to Lexington?

Because the horse was too heavy to carry!

Why did the British cross the Atlantic? **To get to the other tide!**

What kind of tea did the American colonists thirst for? **Liberty!**

What dance was very popular in 1776? **Indepen-dance!**

What did one flag say to the other flag on the 4th of July? **Nothing. It just waved!**

The Fourth of July weekend was approaching, and Miss Pelham, the nursery school teacher, took the opportunity to tell her class about patriotism. 'We live in a great country,' she announced. 'One of the things we should be happy is that, in this country, we are all free.' Trevor, who was a little boy in her class, stood up with his hands on his hips and said loudly, 'I'm not free. I'm four.'