

Eagle Forum of Alabama

AMERICA

250th

Family Challenge



JULY



Independence: Declaration of Independence

Rediscovering Our Founding - One Month at a Time.

www.AlabamaEagle.org

July

Independence: Declaration of Independence

INTRODUCTION



In July 1776, a group of ordinary men made an extraordinary decision. They declared that the American colonies were no longer subjects of a distant king, but free and independent states. Their words, written in the Declaration of Independence, would change history forever.

The Declaration was more than a political document. It was a bold statement about the dignity and value of every person. The Founders proclaimed that our rights come from God, not from government, and that governments exist to protect those rights. They believed that freedom requires courage, responsibility, and a willingness to stand for truth even when it comes at great cost.

This month, your family will explore the ideas that inspired the Declaration of Independence, the brave men who signed it, and the principles of liberty that continue to shape our nation today. As we celebrate Independence Day, we remember that freedom is a precious gift—one that each generation must understand, cherish, and protect.

As you complete this month's activities, consider this question: What does it mean to be truly independent, and how can we use our freedom wisely and responsibly?

July

Independence: Declaration of Independence

FAMILY CHALLENGE

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Create Your Own Family Declaration

July's Family Activity should help children understand that the Declaration wasn't just a historical document—it was a statement about rights, responsibilities, and self-government.

Supplies:

- Tea-stained or tan paper (optional)
- Markers or pens
- A feather pen craft (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Read the famous opening of the Declaration:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident..."

2. Discuss:

- What rights do people have?
- What responsibilities come with freedom?
- What values are important in our family?

3. As a family, create a Family Declaration of Independence beginning with:

- "We hold these truths to be important in our family..."
- Include 5–10 family principles such as:
 - We will tell the truth.
 - We will respect others.
 - We will work hard.
 - We will help those in need.



Bonus Activity: Sign Like a Founder

Research one signer of the Declaration. Each family member chooses a signer and shares: his colony, his occupation, one interesting fact about him. Then everyone signs the Family Declaration using that Founder's name and practices their signature.

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FAMILY CHALLENGE

Family Devotional: *Freedom Comes from God*



SCRIPTURE: "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free..." Galatians 5:1

DISCUSSION: When the Founders wrote the Declaration of Independence, they boldly declared that our rights come from our Creator, not from government. They believed that freedom was a gift from God and that people should use that freedom wisely. True liberty is not doing whatever we want—it is having the freedom to do what is right.

As we celebrate Independence Day, let's thank God for the blessings of freedom and ask Him to help us be good citizens, faithful family members, and people of character.

PRAYER: Below is a brief adaptation inspired by the Continental Congress's calls to prayer and sounds very much like something that could have been prayed in an American home in 1776.

Almighty God, We thank Thee for the gift of liberty and for Thy providential care over our nation. Grant us wisdom, virtue, and courage, that we may preserve the blessings of freedom for future generations. Guide our hearts to love what is right and to faithfully serve Thee and our neighbors.

Amen.

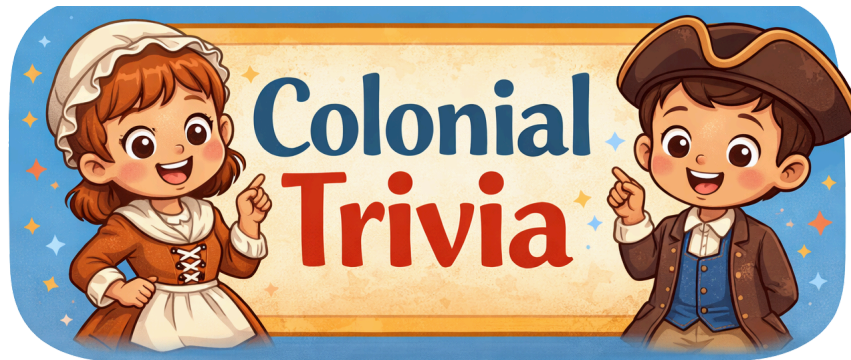
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FAMILY CHALLENGE

Did You Know...

Most Americans celebrate Independence Day on July 4th, but the colonies actually voted for independence on July 2, 1776. On that day, the Second Continental Congress approved Richard Henry Lee's resolution declaring the colonies free from Great Britain. After the vote, Congress finalized the Declaration of Independence, which was adopted two days later.



(Answers at the bottom of the word search page.)

1. On what date was the Declaration of Independence adopted by the Continental Congress?
2. Who was the primary author of the Declaration of Independence?
3. How many colonies declared their independence from Great Britain?
4. According to the Declaration of Independence, from whom do our rights come?
5. What are the three unalienable rights listed in the Declaration of Independence?
6. How many men signed the Declaration of Independence?
7. In what city was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
8. What historic building is known as the birthplace of the Declaration of Independence?
9. From which country did the American colonies declare their independence?
10. What was the main purpose of the Declaration of Independence?
11. What three things did the signers pledge to support the cause of independence?
12. Who was the first signer of the Declaration of Independence?
13. Which future U.S. president signed the Declaration of Independence?
14. What famous phrase in the Declaration begins with the words "We hold these truths..."
15. What symbol hangs atop Independence Hall and rang out to announce important events in Philadelphia?

Bonus Question

Who were the only two signers of the Declaration that later became Presidents?

Interesting Fact

Both men died on July 4, 1826—the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence!

Family GAME

NINE MEN'S MORRIS

Nine Men's Morris, also called “Mill,” is an ancient strategy game that has been played for at least 1,400 years. It was popular in Europe and England during the Middle Ages and later came to colonial America. Revolutionary War soldiers played it during downtime, and children often drew the board in the dirt and used marbles, pebbles, or buttons as game pieces.



What You Need:

- A printed board (easy to draw—see below)
- 9 pieces for each player (beans, buttons, coins, pebbles, etc.)

How To Play:

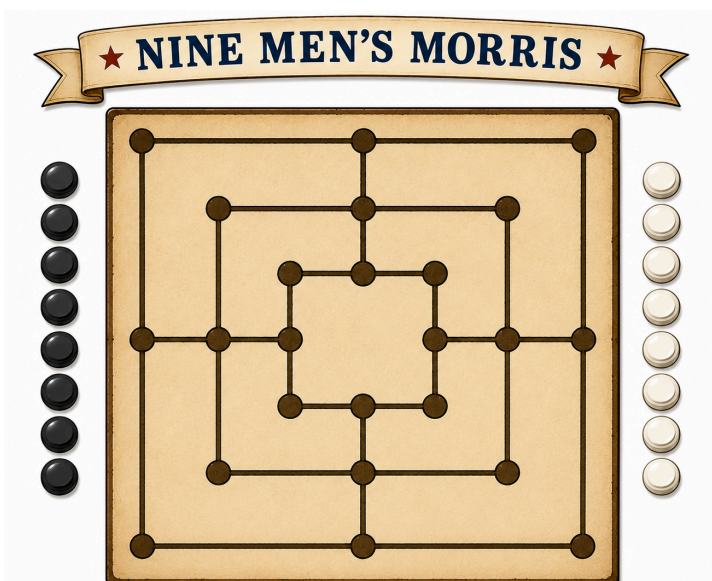
- Players take turns placing their pieces on the board.
- Whenever a player gets three pieces in a row (called a “mill”), they may remove one of their opponent's pieces.
- Once all pieces are placed, players move their pieces along the lines trying to make more mills.
- The winner is the first player to reduce the other player to two pieces or block all their moves.

Fun Fact:

- Archaeologists have discovered Nine Men's Morris boards carved into ancient stone buildings, castle walls, and even church benches—evidence that people have enjoyed this game for centuries!

Something to Ponder:

- What skills—such as patience, planning, or perseverance—are important in both games and life?



WORD Search

Kid's Puzzle

LIBERTY	PATRIOT
FREEDOM	RIGHTS
AMERICA	FAMILY
COLONY	HAPPY
CONGRESS	JULY

L B Q P A T R I O T
C O N G R E S S R Y
A F A M I L Y G T P
L H N K J T R F I A
C I E G U Q I R H M
V O B A L X G E A E
Q L L E Y W H E P R
V Y M O R U T D P I
B C N R N T S O Y C
N C T F B Y Y M P A

C Q H L D E C L A R A T I O N
U T Q W J V I B I U P V S T X
I N E Q U A L I T Y T W E C J
N U A Q G D N B D G T C L H G
D C S L K L C P A R Y O F C R
E O R P I P D L F I R N G R I
P L M E A E R D J G A G O E E
E O Z V V T N W D H N R V A V
N N V D A O R A J T N E E T A
D I J X T X L I B S Y S R O N
E E F U Q Q K U O L L S N R C
N S A L K L Q F T T E H M A E
C L I B E R T Y G I S G E B S
E K Y G Z R I Z U C O V N P T
I M W W R S L Q I E N N T K D

Teen Puzzle

INDEPENDENCE
DECLARATION
LIBERTY
EQUALITY
CREATOR
RIGHTS
CONGRESS
PATRIOTS
COLONIES
REVOLUTION
GRIEVANCES
TYRANNY
UNALIENABLE
SELFGOVERNMENT

1. July 4, 1776, 2. Thomas Jefferson, 3. 13, 4. Our Creator (God) 5. Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness, 6. 56, 7. Philadelphia, 8. Independence Hall, 9. Great Britain, 10. To announce that the colonies were free and independent states, 11. Their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor, 12. John Hancock, 13. John Adams or Thomas Jefferson (both are correct), 14. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal...", 15. The Liberty Bell, BONUS: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson

Declaration of Independence

☆

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people
 to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to
 assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which
 the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the
 opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel
 them to the separation.

[illegible]

LIFE
LIBERTY
and the
PURSUIT of
HAPPINESS

Eagle Forum of Alabama

ABOUT US

Eagle Forum of Alabama is dedicated to promoting strong families, informed citizens, and the timeless principles that made America great. Through education, advocacy, and programs fostered by our Action Groups and Student Eagles, we are investing in the next generation of leaders.

If your family enjoyed this month's challenge, you're already part of something bigger. Together, we are raising the next generation to love truth, cherish freedom, and live with purpose.

WWW.ALABAMAEAGLE.ORG



Check out www.AlabamaEagle.org for:

- Weekly Alabama legislative updates
- Blog posts & news updates on issues impacting Alabama families
- Access educational resources like the America 250 Family Challenge
- Learn about Student Eagles and how they can get involved
- Find upcoming EFA events and conferences
- Take action with alerts to make your voice heard
- Support our work to strengthen families & communities across Alabama
- Find links to our social media and Youtube channel



DONATE!

We're YOUR voice at the State House—and your partner in raising informed, confident citizens. We are deeply grateful for your financial support, which makes it possible for us to continue educating, equipping, and advocating for strong families across Alabama.