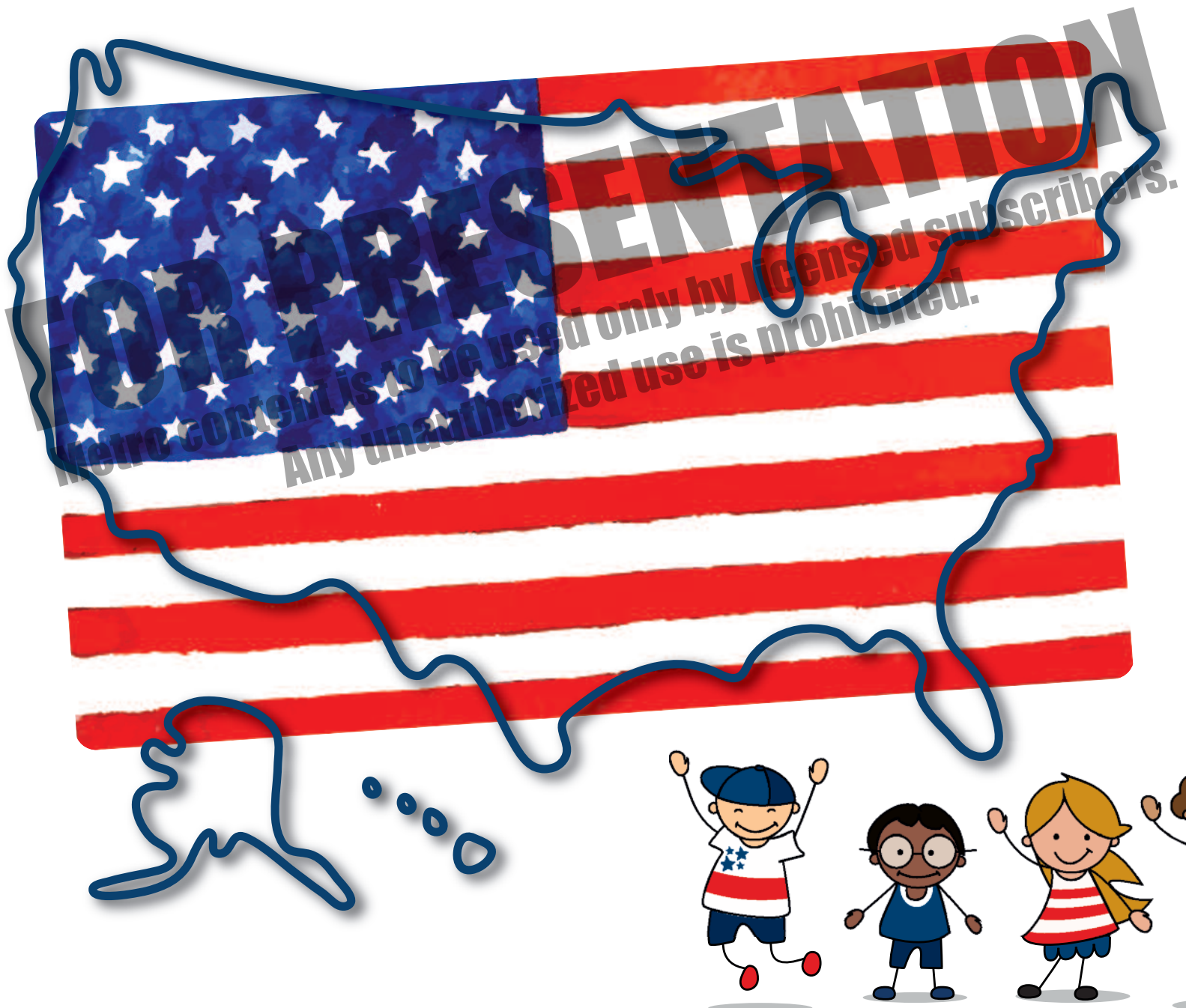


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The road to American independence

The story of how the United States came to be is an interesting tale. As the nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, now can be a great time to revisit how the United States got its start.



Mad about money

In the 1700s, there were 13 colonies along the Atlantic coast of what would later become the United States of America. These colonies were under the rule of the British monarchy. While the colonists were mostly left alone, after Great Britain had a very expensive war with France, King George III ran out of money. His solution to raise funds was to start taxing the colonists for items they used each day, including sugar, tea and paper.

The colonists were upset about all of these extra taxes, and they also were disappointed that they had no say in the laws that governed them. The National Park Service says this anger helped to create the phrase,

"No taxation without representation."

No tea for you

In 1773, colonists disguised themselves and dumped an entire boatload of British tea into Boston Harbor. King George was angered by the protest and sent additional soldiers to make sure the colonists behaved.

Tempers continued to grow over the next few years. In April 1775, shots were fired at Lexington Common. That became the first major military action between the British Army and the patriots from the thirteen colonies, and marked the start of the American Revolution.

No one is quite sure who fired first, but the gunshot was known as the "shot heard 'round the world," says History.com.

Moving toward independence

While fighting was taking place between the colonists and the British military, a group of leaders met in Philadelphia to discuss plans to break ties with Great Britain. Written mostly by Thomas Jefferson, the Declaration of Independence was drafted with the help of Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman.

The important document declared that all people have the rights to "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

The Declaration was written between June 11 and June 28, 1776, and was adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. The official signing by delegates mostly took place on August 2, 1776, says National Geographic Kids.

A long battle

Fighting the British was a tall order. The British had the most powerful army in the world and the American Continental Army, led by George Washington, was not as large and didn't have much food or weapons.

After the Battles of Saratoga led to a win for the colonists, France joined in the fight on the side of the Americans. The French Navy helped trap British forces at Yorktown, and caused them to surrender.

Peace treaty

In 1783, the Treaty of Paris was signed between the British and the colonists, and the United States was now seen as a free and independent nation. British troops left and the American Revolution ended.

Every year America's independence is celebrated on July 4 with parades, parties, fireworks, and a look back at this exciting history.

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HOW DO FIREWORKS WORK?



Fireworks light up the night sky on various holidays, including the Fourth of July. Watching a fireworks display can be a great way for families to spend time together.

Chances are fireworks will be a big part of the special celebrations taking place across the country when the United States of America celebrates its 250th birthday in 2026. In fact, fireworks have been a part of Independence Day celebrations since the founding of the United States in 1776. Future president John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail and said the day should be "solemnized (made more formal) with illuminations (fireworks)."

If you have ever watched fireworks burst into different colors and shapes and wondered just how that happens, here is the science behind those impressive displays.

Fireworks are explosions of a great number of small pellets of black powder called **stars**, says the Library of Congress. Black powder explodes when it is lit on fire.

Fireworks also contain different chemicals or metals that create certain colors when they burn.

To set off a firework, a person lights a **fuse**.

Heat travels along the fuse until it reaches the bottom of the main part of the firework, known as the **shell**.

This lights the **lift charge**, which is made from black powder.

Fireworks are designed so the stars are set up inside a shell to form patterns.

Once the firework reaches the right height, a second fuse ignites and sets off the **burst charge**.

This causes the black powder stars in the shell to explode in the sky.

The arrangement of the stars creates the shape of the explosion.

Chemicals also can cause special sound effects. Some will whistle, crackle or pop louder.

Science is behind the development of the shapes, colors and patterns of fireworks.

Pyrotechnicians, trained professionals who design, set up and ignite fireworks, will need to plan carefully to have a creative display for people to enjoy.

COLORS AND CHEMISTRY

Metal and chemicals form the colors in fireworks. The color depends on the chemicals used, says the Ontario Science Center:

Strontium = Red

Calcium = Orange

Sodium = Yellow

Barium = Green

Copper = Blue

Strontium + Copper = Purple

Magnesium + Aluminum + Titanium = White



Fireworks will be part of America's extra-special Independence Day celebrations this year, and now you understand just how they burn so brightly in the night sky!

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2026 U.S. Federal HOLIDAYS

Americans will celebrate 11 federal holidays in 2026.

There are actually 12 permanent federal holidays – Inauguration Day is celebrated every four years following a presidential election. Many students will be off from school on federal holidays and adults may be off from work as well.

Federal holidays are established by the United States Congress, which passes legislation to designate certain days as

federal holidays. That legislation is then signed by the president. Proposals for new federal holidays may be submitted, but may not come to be.

The first four federal holidays were created in 1870. Those holidays granted paid time off to federal workers in the District of Columbia for New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. George Washington's Birthday was added to that list 10 years later. By 1885, Congress extended some holidays to all federal employees.

Here are the federal holidays that Americans will celebrate this year:

- New Year's Day:** January 1
- Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.:** January 19
- Washington's Birthday** (Presidents' Day): February 16
- Memorial Day:** May 25
- Juneteenth National Independence Day:** June 19
- Independence Day:** July 4 (observed on July 3)
- Labor Day:** September 7
- Columbus Day:** October 12
- Veterans Day:** November 11
- Thanksgiving Day:** November 26
- Christmas Day:** December 25

The first four
federal holidays
were created in
1870.





Which of these landmarks
would you see on a visit
to our nation's capital,
WASHINGTON, D.C.?



Golden Gate Bridge



The Lincoln Memorial



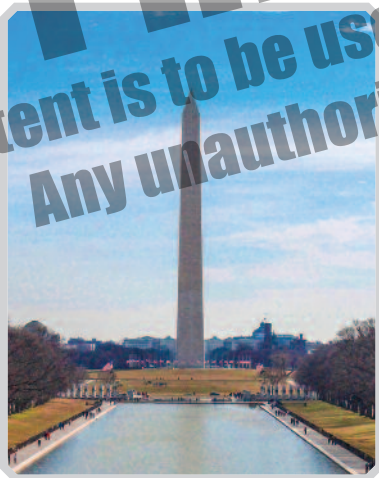
Mount Rushmore



The Capitol Building



The Statue of Liberty



The Washington Monument

Landmark Locations:
Golden Gate Bridge - San Francisco, California
The Statue of Liberty - Ellis Island, New York
The Lincoln Memorial - Washington, D.C
Mount Rushmore - Keystone, South Dakota
The Washington Monument - Washington, D.C
The Capitol Building - Washington, D.C

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CANDLE COUNT: HOW OLD ARE OUR PRESIDENTS?

The office of the President of the United States of America has been filled by people from many different backgrounds since the country was first formed 250 years ago. But there is an age-related requirement that a candidate must meet to qualify for the highest office in the land.

The United States government notes that Article II of the U.S. Constitution indicates **a president must be at least 35 years old.**

If 35 seems a bit young to take on the job of being America's president, it's worth pointing out that no one younger than 42 has ever served as President of the United States. In fact, Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt was nearly 43 when he became the youngest president in American history in 1901. And President Roosevelt was not actually elected president in 1901. Roosevelt served as vice president from March 1901 to September 1901 but became president of the United States when President William McKinley was assassinated. President Theodore Roosevelt, who won the presidential election in 1904, remains the youngest person to ever serve as President of the United States. But President Roosevelt was not the youngest person to be elected to the presidency. That honor belongs to John F. Kennedy, who was 43 years and 236 days old when he was sworn in as president on January 20, 1961.

The oldest person to be inaugurated as the U.S. president is America's current president, Donald J. Trump. President Trump was 78 years and 220 days old when he was inaugurated as America's president for the second time on January 20, 2025.



But how old were other notable American presidents when they were sworn in as President of the United States?

- **George Washington:** 57 years and 68 days old when he was inaugurated for the first time
- **Abraham Lincoln:** 52 years and 20 days old
- **Thomas Jefferson:** 57 years and 325 days old
- **Franklin D. Roosevelt** (Theodore Roosevelt's fifth cousin): 51 years and 33 days old
- **Barack Obama:** 47 years and 169 days old

YOUNGEST U.S. PRESIDENT:

Teddy Roosevelt
42 years and 322 days old

OLDEST U.S. PRESIDENT:

Donald J. Trump
78 years and 220 days old

Have you ever wondered about the pets who have lived in the White House?



PAWSOME & FINE-FEATHERED PRESIDENTIAL PETS

The President of the United States has called the White House home for nearly all of the country's 250-year history. The National Park Service reports the White House did not get its now globally recognized name until around 1811, but it's still been the home of U.S. presidents for more than 200 years.

While presidents might be the most easily recognized residents at the White House, their families tend to live there with them. And sometimes that includes their pets! Like lots of pet owners, many presidents could not have imagined life without their furry friends, so they brought them along to the White House after being elected. In fact, many interesting animals have captured the hearts of American presidents over the years. Some moved into the White House, while others stayed on the minds of their owners even while those men were tending to their duties as president. Regardless of where they lived, these are some of the presidential pets who have a unique place in America's 250-year history.



"SOCKS"

Socks was the family cat of the Clintons, including Bill Clinton, who served as President of the United States from 1993 to 2001. The William J. Clinton Presidential Library & Museum notes that Socks was a stray tuxedo cat whom the Clintons adopted while they lived in Arkansas, where Bill Clinton served as governor prior to being elected president. Socks was wildly popular among Americans during President Clinton's two terms as president, and even appeared on television shows and in books and video games.

"POLL"

It seems right that a politician should inherit a pet named "Poll," and that's just what happened when President Andrew Jackson was trusted to care for a parrot named "Poll" upon the death of the president's wife, Rachel, in 1828. While Rachel was known for her religious devotion and was not one to seek the spotlight, Poll might have been a lot different than Mrs. Jackson. The National Constitution Center reports that one account of Poll noted the parrot's loud and constant swearing at President Jackson's funeral in 1845. While Poll evidently never lived at the White House, the NCC notes President Jackson often asked about the bird in letters home.



"REBECCA"

Calvin Coolidge served as President of the United States from 1923 to 1929, and maintained a love of animals throughout his time at the White House. That love extended to Rebecca, a pet raccoon (yes, a pet raccoon!) whom President Coolidge would visit each day and walk around on a leash. And that wasn't the only special treatment Rebecca received from President Coolidge, who also kept a pygmy hippo, a bobcat and a wallaby among his assortment of pets. When the White House was being repaired and the Coolidge family was forced to temporarily move, the president sent a limousine to bring Rebecca to their temporary living quarters!



"LIBERTY"

The story of Liberty, the family dog of President Gerald Ford, is an inspiring one indeed. First Lady Betty Ford was diagnosed with breast cancer shortly after her husband, who served as president from 1974 to 1977, took the oath of office. The White House Historical Association reports that the Fords' daughter, Susan, along with Personal Photographer to the President David Hume Kennerly, felt Betty and Gerald needed a pick-me-up as the First Lady recovered from cancer treatment. That boost arrived in the form of an eight-month-old Golden Retriever the family named "Liberty," who immediately provided the boost Susan Ford and David Kennerly hoped she would. But Liberty's inspirational story does not end there. When Liberty gave birth to nine puppies on the third floor of the White House on September 14, 1975, one of the pups was given to the Leader Dog School for the Blind in Michigan!



Socks, Rebecca, Poll, and Liberty are just four of the many presidential pets that have left their paw prints on American history.

INFLUENTIAL KIDS

In American History

Many kids have made an impact on the United States over the last 250 years.

These brave and influential kids will inspire you!

RUBY BRIDGES



Ruby Bridges attended a segregated kindergarten class in 1959 where children were separated according to their skin color. But by the time she was ready to start first grade, Louisiana had ordered its schools to desegregate. Ruby bravely arrived for the first day of school at William Frantz Elementary School surrounded by federal marshals, and she was the only Black child who arrived to attend school with the white children that day. Her bravery continued even after she made it through the crowds of people outside the school. Once inside, all but one teacher refused to teach while Bridges was enrolled. Bridges has remained an activist and a source of inspiration for millions throughout her life.

SHIRLEY TEMPLE



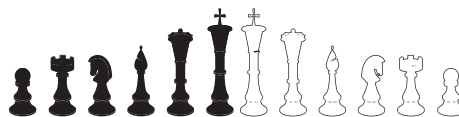
Shirley Temple was a beloved child star in Hollywood in the mid-1930s. Temple made her film debut in 1931 at the age of three and went on to star in many notable films, including the 1934 movie "Bright Eyes." Temple had such a presence on screen that she won some particularly notable fans, including President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. While Temple ended her career in Hollywood in 1949, the next chapter in her life was no less impressive than her first, as the one-time child star went on to a successful diplomatic career, serving as U.S. Ambassador to Ghana from 1974 to 1976 and Ambassador to Czechoslovakia from 1989 to 1992.

ALEXANDRA SCOTT



Alexandra Scott was still shy of her first birthday when she was diagnosed with a form of childhood cancer known as neuroblastoma. When doctors diagnosed the disease, they told Alexandra's parents that she was unlikely to ever walk again if she survived the treatment. But Alexandra learned to walk, and her inspiring story did not end there. Alexandra's cancer returned when she was three years old, and after receiving a stem cell transplant the day after her fourth birthday, she said she wanted to raise money for other kids like her by opening a lemonade stand. That first lemonade stand raised \$2,000. But that was only the beginning. Alexandra battled cancer throughout her life, and passed away in 2004 at the age of eight. But by the time of her passing, Alexandra had already raised more than \$1 million to find a cure for her disease. Today, Alexandra's namesake charity, Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF), is the largest independent childhood cancer charity in the United States.

BOBBY FISCHER



Chicago-born Bobby Fischer didn't wait until adulthood to make an impact on American chess. Fischer won his first of a record eight U.S. Championships at the age of 14. Fischer's story is one of remarkable perseverance. At the time of his birth, his mother, Regina, was homeless. Fischer remarkably learned to play chess from a set he and his sister purchased at a candy store after their mother relocated her family to New York. When Bobby's sister tired of the game, Fischer kept playing many games against himself. Fischer ended up playing in eight U.S. Championships and won them all.



DID YOU KNOW?

**Children make up a big part
of the United States population.**

The United States Census Bureau (USCB) estimates there are around

**73.8 million kids
under the age of 17**

living in the U.S. in 2026. And the breakdowns by age show that there's a pretty even distribution of kids in each age group. Of the nearly 74 million kids across the United States, 24 million are 5-years-old or younger, 23.8 million are between the ages of six and 11, and 26 million are between the ages of 12 and 17. In March 2026, the total U.S. population was roughly 342 million people, says the USCB. That means that nearly 22 percent of the American population is age 17 or younger!

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American History

TRIVIA

1. This Founding Father's signature on the United States Declaration of Independence was so large and stylish that his name has since become synonymous with signatures.

- A. Alexander Hamilton
- B. John Hancock
- C. Paul Revere
- D. John Adams



2. In which city was the United States Declaration of Independence signed?

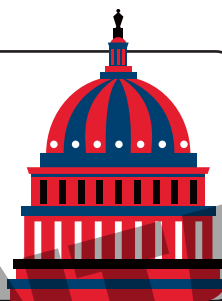
- A. New York, New York
- B. Boston, Massachusetts
- C. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- D. Washington, D.C.



3. I am the first son of a President of the United States to be elected President as well.



4. What are the three branches of the United States government?

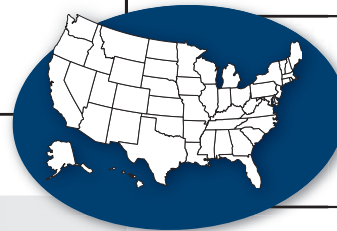


5. This is the national anthem of the United States.



6. Which of these states was the last admitted to the United States?

- A. New Mexico
- B. Hawaii
- C. Alaska
- D. Washington



7. This conflict in the mid-nineteenth century divided the United States.

- A. World War I
- B. World War II
- C. The American Civil War
- D. The Vietnam War

8. Which Founding Father famously declared,

"Give me liberty or give me death!"

during the Second Virginia Convention in 1775?

- A. Thomas Jefferson
- B. Patrick Henry
- C. George Washington
- D. Benjamin Franklin

9. Which state is the largest in the United States?

10. Which astronaut was the first American to walk on the surface of the moon?

- A. Buzz Aldrin
- B. John Glenn
- C. Michael Collins
- D. Neil Armstrong



ANSWERS & LEARN MORE :

1. B. John Hancock. It's now common for Americans to refer to their signature as their "John Hancock."

2. C. Philadelphia

3. John Quincy Adams. My father, John Adams, was a Founding Father who also was the second President of the United States, serving from 1797 to 1801. I was the sixth president, serving from 1825 to 1829.

4. The Legislative, the Executive, and the Judicial. The Legislative branch includes the United States Congress (the Senate and the House of Representatives). The Executive branch includes the President and the Vice President. The Judicial branch includes the Supreme Court of the United States.

5. "The Star-Spangled Banner." The lyrics were written by American lawyer Francis Scott Key.

6. B. Hawaii. Hawaii was admitted to the United States on August 21, 1959, roughly eight months after Alaska.

7. C. The American Civil War

8. B. Patrick Henry. Henry's declaration is credited with convincing convention delegates, a group that included George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, to send troops to fight in the American Revolutionary War.

9. Alaska. Alaska is actually larger in terms of total square miles than the next three largest states combined.

10. D. Neil Armstrong. Armstrong was mission commander on Apollo 11, so he became the first American, and the first human being, to step onto the moon. Aldrin, who also was on-board the Apollo 11, followed 20 minutes later.

A history of the

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE



The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History notes that the Pledge of Allegiance was first introduced in *The Youth's Companion*, an American children's magazine, on September 9, 1892. The pledge was written by a minister named Francis Bellamy. While it first appeared in 1892, the United States Congress did not formally recognize the pledge for another 50 years.

Americans of all ages can recognize the Pledge of Allegiance, which many youngsters learn in school and even recite at the start of each school day. As Americans celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States, some might think the Pledge of Allegiance has been around for much of those 250 years. While the pledge has endured for quite a long time, it's not quite as old as the United States of America.

Students might not realize that there is an official manner of delivery for the pledge, even if they know it well. In December 1942, Congress adopted the manner of delivery that requires those saying the pledge to place their hand over their heart. They also must face the flag, and any non-religious headdress should be removed. Military personnel who are in uniform, and even those not in uniform, must remain silent, face the flag and render the military salute.

The Pledge of Allegiance:

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.



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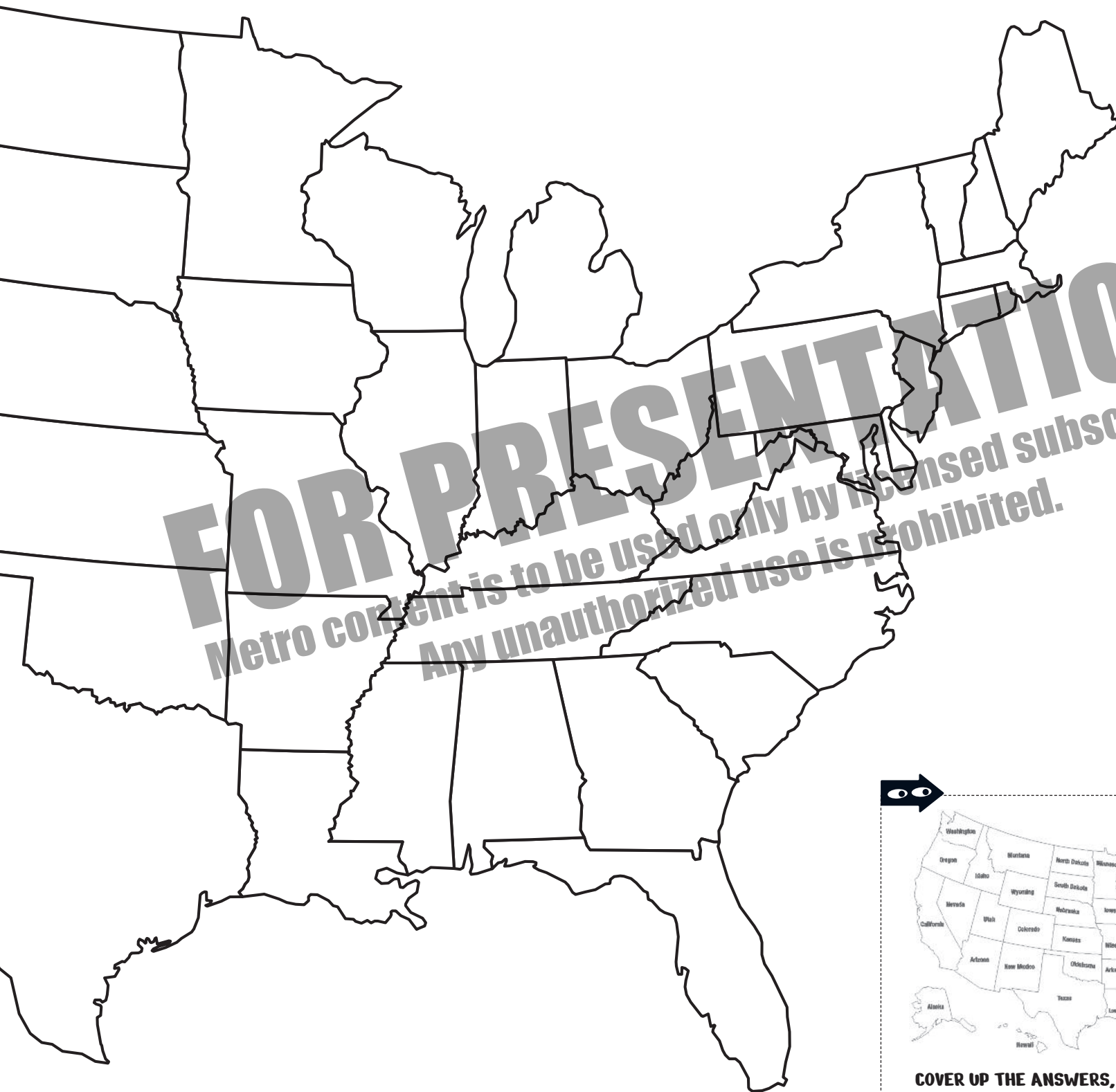
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Can you label **All 50 STATES?**



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ Alabama | ☐ Montana |
| ☐ Alaska | ☐ Nebraska |
| ☐ Arizona | ☐ Nevada |
| ☐ Arkansas | ☐ New Hampshire |
| ☐ California | ☐ New Jersey |
| ☐ Colorado | ☐ New Mexico |
| ☐ Connecticut | ☐ New York |
| ☐ Delaware | ☐ North Carolina |
| ☐ Florida | ☐ North Dakota |
| ☐ Georgia | ☐ Ohio |
| ☐ Hawaii | ☐ Oklahoma |
| ☐ Idaho | ☐ Oregon |
| ☐ Illinois | ☐ Pennsylvania |
| ☐ Indiana | ☐ Rhode Island |
| ☐ Iowa | ☐ South Carolina |
| ☐ Kansas | ☐ South Dakota |
| ☐ Kentucky | ☐ Tennessee |
| ☐ Louisiana | ☐ Texas |
| ☐ Maine | ☐ Utah |
| ☐ Maryland | ☐ Vermont |
| ☐ Massachusetts | ☐ Virginia |
| ☐ Michigan | ☐ Washington |
| ☐ Minnesota | ☐ West Virginia |
| ☐ Mississippi | ☐ Wisconsin |
| ☐ Missouri | ☐ Wyoming |





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COVER UP THE ANSWERS, NO PEEKING!



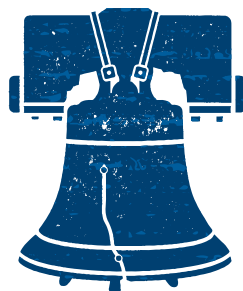
STRANGE BUT TRUE FACTS

about the United States

The United States is among the largest and most populated countries in the world. With so much land and so many people, the United States has lots to celebrate as it honors its 250th anniversary, including some strange but weird facts that show just how unique a place the Land of the Free has become since 1776.

- **New York City has more residents than most states.**

While population numbers change from year to year, the World Population Review estimates that New York City has a population of 8.35 million people in 2026. That's roughly eight times as many people as Rhode Island and nearly 15 times as many people as Wyoming!



- **Pennsylvania is “misspelled” on some important pieces of United States history, including the Constitution and the Liberty Bell.**

But this does not exactly mean the Founding Fathers could not spell. In the eighteenth century, it was common to spell Pennsylvania with two “Ns” instead of three, which is how it’s spelled today.

- **Lake Superior is the world’s largest freshwater lake by surface area,**

but that’s not all that makes this beautiful lake unique. In fact, Lake Superior, which covers nearly 32,000 square miles, is longer and wider than the state of New Jersey. Lake Superior is roughly 350 miles in length and 160 miles wide, while the Garden State is about 150 miles long and 70 miles wide. And the Garden State is not alone in that regard, as the surface area of Lake Superior also exceeds the surface area of the entire Republic of Ireland!

- **We may never know why the chicken crossed the road, but we might know why squirrels in Longview, Washington, cross the road.**



It might be due to the fact that the Nutty Narrows Bridge was built in 1963 to help squirrels safely do just that! The Nutty Narrows Bridge was built and designed by locals who wanted to prevent squirrels from being killed by passing cars. There are now four additional squirrel bridges along with the original bridge built over Olympia Way. That bridge was repaired and repainted in 1983, and a year later a 10-foot wooden squirrel sculpture was placed near the bridge in honor of Amos Peters, who helped to build the original crossing decades earlier.

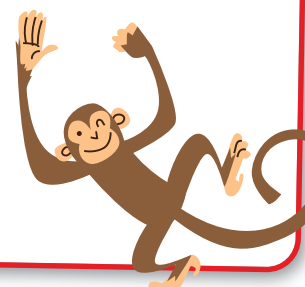


- **Darth Vader is part of the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.**

The cathedral is part of the Episcopal Church and is the second largest church building in the United States. But the Darth Vader grotesque (think gargoyle, only this one is Darth Vader) is among the cathedral’s more notable features. While some mistake the Darth Vader grotesque as an act of vandalism, it was fully approved and was actually part of a children’s competition in the 1980s. Kids were invited to draw a grotesque for a new portion of the cathedral being built at the time and Christopher Rader’s Darth Vader submission was one of a handful of winning entries. Darth Vader is still there today, though you will need binoculars to see him on the north side of the cathedral.

- **The United States might not be known for having a native monkey population, but there’s an island in the southeastern part of the country that most certainly is!**

Morgan Island can be found in the St. Helena Sound off the coast of Beaufort, South Carolina. More than 1,000 rhesus monkeys arrived on the island in the summer of 1979, when they were intended to be used as research animals, and more than 3,000 monkeys now call the island home. The monkey colony continues to thrive on Morgan Island, which cannot be visited by humans. But curious monkey fans can boat around the island and might even see or hear its residents.



The creation of the West Wing **WAS INSPIRED BY KIDS?**

The West Wing of the White House houses the office of the President of the United States and many other influential figures, including the Vice President and the White House Chief of Staff. So it's fair to conclude many important decisions in American history have been made in this particular area of the White House, which might not even exist if not for kids. According to Whitehouse.gov, President Theodore Roosevelt, who served as president from 1901 to 1909, loved having his six children with him at the White House, and those youngsters also loved calling the White House home. The children's laughter was so consistent, and probably more than a little loud, that President Roosevelt ordered the construction of what the president assumed would be a temporary building so he and his office staff could work away from his children. That building is now known as the West Wing.



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SPY

Can you find all of the American symbols?



- FIND
- 13:
- 6:

250
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- 3:



U.S.A. WORD SEARCH

Skill level: Ages 8 and up. Find the words hidden in the puzzle. They appear forwards, backwards and vertically.

R G C I L B U P E R G U T B I
U R E N N M S A F G S G Y T C
S S N C B I U P S P U B C N N
J J L I B E R T Y E A G L E F
P T Y C A R C O M E D G O D E
S L R G P D S J F B C N B I C
D I F R E E D O M N T G O S E
C O N S T I T U T I O N G E P
C A P I T O L D M P S R B R R
Y P N C S R A T S O U O Y P A
M U Y A N L A R E D E F E J I
E C N E D N E P E D N I I E R
E C I T S U J S E P I R T S I
E I J E E M D G I A U B C M E
P D C O Y N O L O C S G C L N

- CAPITOL
- COLONY
- CONSTITUTION
- DEMOCRACY
- EAGLE
- FEDERAL
- FREEDOM
- INDEPENDENCE
- JUSTICE
- LIBERTY
- PRAIRIE
- PRESIDENT
- REPUBLIC
- STARS
- STRIPES



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KID DIY RECIPES

Bake and Decorate!

Basic treats with festive decorating to bring to your America@250 parties.

Red, white and blue is all over come July. But the colors associated with the United States of America might be even more noticeable in July 2026, when Americans will be celebrating 250 years of the U.S.A.

Create this recipe for “Fourth of July Chocolate Cupcakes” from Lines+Angles.



Fourth of July Chocolate Cupcakes

Makes 24 servings

- 1 milk chocolate box cake mix
- 1 tub vanilla buttercream frosting
- Red sprinkles

Line a 24-cup muffin pan with festive paper liners. Prepare cupcakes according to package instructions. Once the cupcakes are completely cooled, fill a piping bag fitted with a large star tip with the frosting. Hold the piping bag straight up and tip slightly above the cupcake. Apply steady pressure and pipe a small mound in the center of the cupcake to create a base. Without stopping pressure, move the tip in a circle around the center mound, continuing in a spiral, slightly inward and upward as you go. When you reach the top, stop squeezing and pull the tip up gently to create a clean pointed top. Immediately add the sprinkles on top while frosting is soft so they stick.

No baking required!

Try this simple and festive recipe for “Chocolate-Coated Fourth of July Pretzel Sticks” from Lines+Angles.

Chocolate-Coated Fourth of July Pretzel Sticks

Makes 30 servings

- 1 12-ounce bag milk chocolate chips
- 30 pretzel rods
- Red, white and blue star-shaped sprinkles

1. Pour the chocolate chips into a medium glass mixing bowl. Microwave in 30-second intervals, stirring between each, until the chocolate is melted.
2. Dip a pretzel rod into the melted chocolate. Use a spoon or spatula to help cover as much of the rod with chocolate as desired, leaving enough bare to hold it.
3. Place the dipped rod on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper and sprinkle with the star-shaped sprinkles.
4. Repeat the process for the remaining pretzel rods and then place in the refrigerator for at least 10 minutes before eating to let the chocolate set.



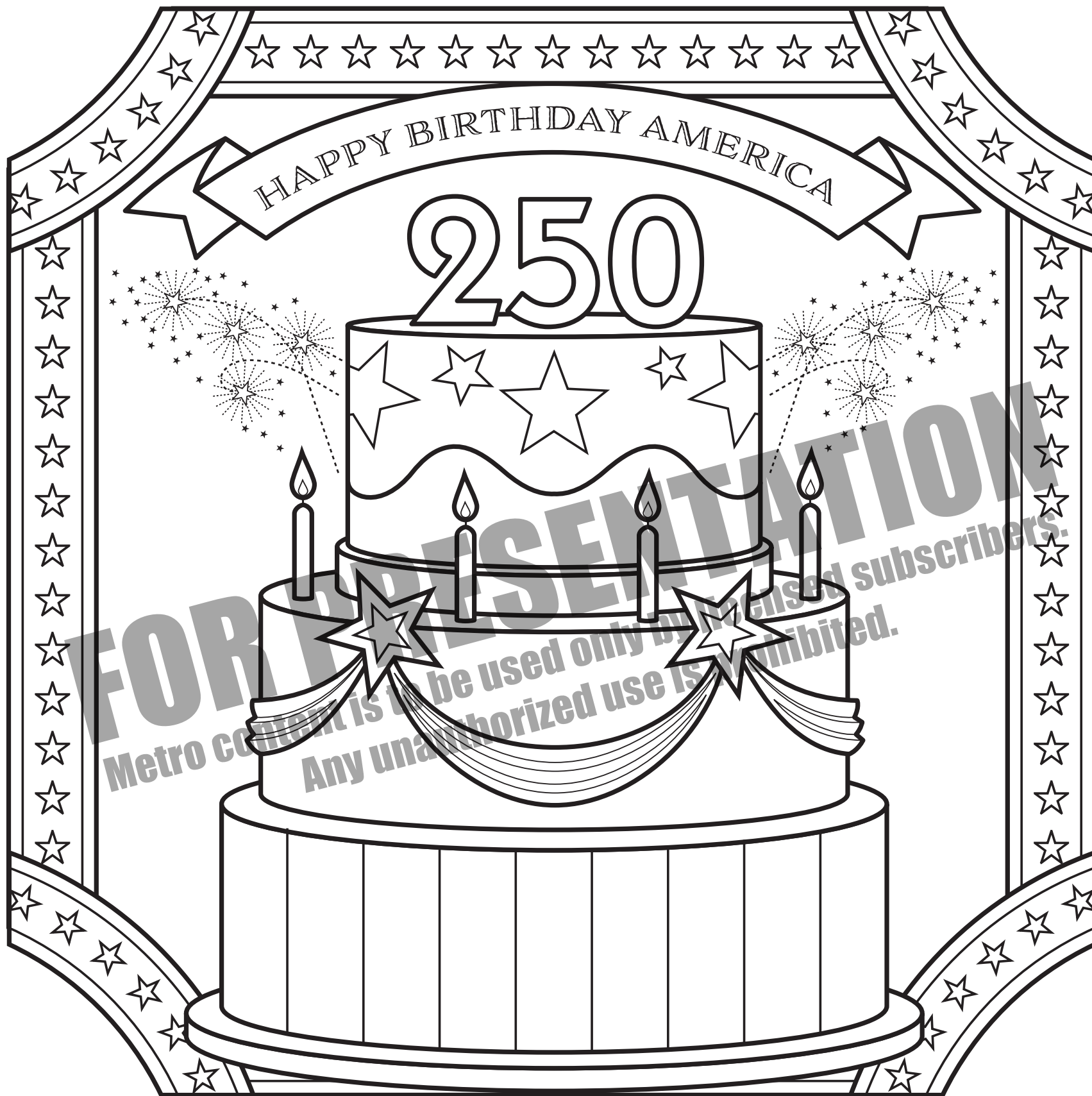
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Artist: _____

DID YOU KNOW?

The job of President of the United States is pretty demanding. But imagine having that job and also having a newborn baby born in the White House at the same time? That has only affected one president in the 250-year history of the United States.



Esther Cleveland, who was born in the White House on September 9, 1893, was the first and remains the only child of a sitting American president to be born in the White House.

Esther was the daughter of President Grover Cleveland, and her birth was not the only milestone moment in her father's life to take place at the White House. Indeed, President Cleveland married Frances Folsom, Esther's mother, at the White House in 1886. President Cleveland remains the first and only president to tie the knot in the White House since it started serving as the home of the president and his family in 1800.

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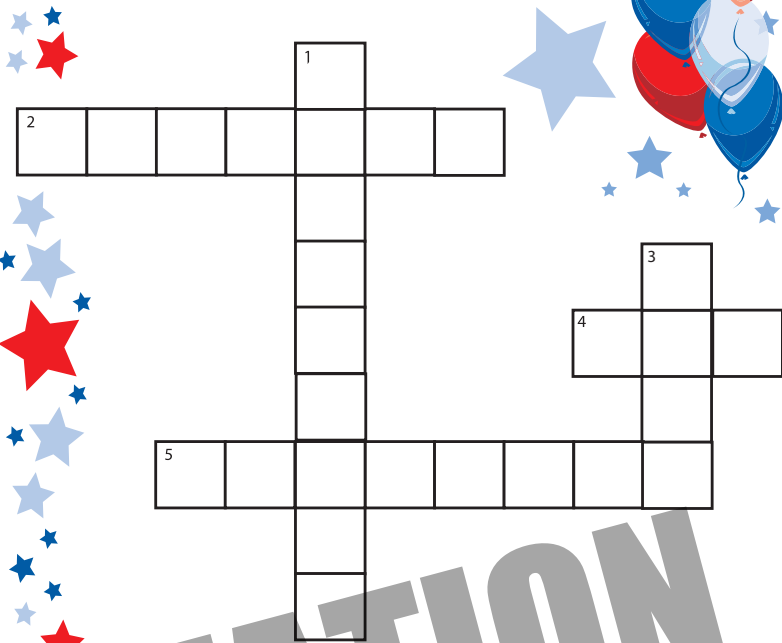
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Little Kids' Criss-Cross

America's Birthday



ACROSS

- 2. United States of _____
- 4. Enjoyable
- 5. Yearly party

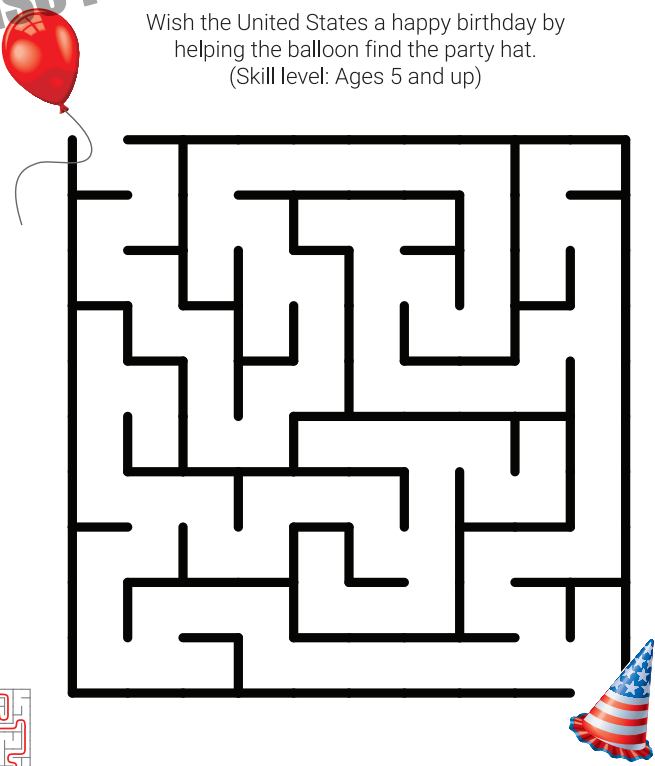
DOWN

- 1. Loud and colorful bursts
- 3. Seventh month of the year

Answers: Across 2. America 4. Fun 5. Birthday
Down 1. Fireworks 3. July

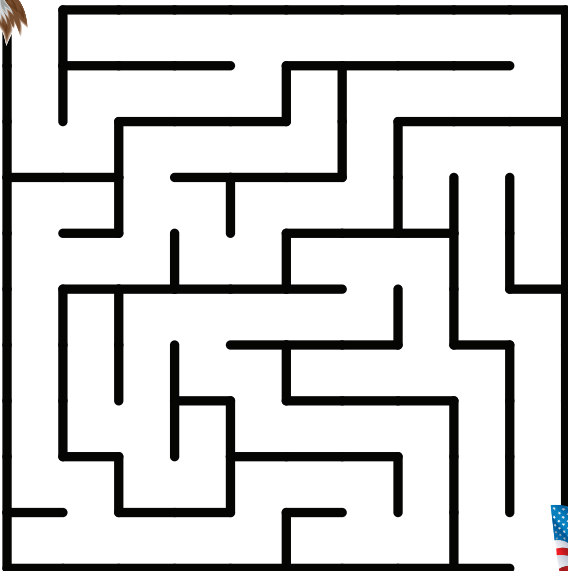
AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY MAZE

Wish the United States a happy birthday by helping the balloon find the party hat.
(Skill level: Ages 5 and up)



CELEBRATE AMERICA MAZE

Celebrate the United States by helping the bald eagle find the American flag.
(Skill level: Ages 5 and up)



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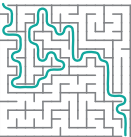
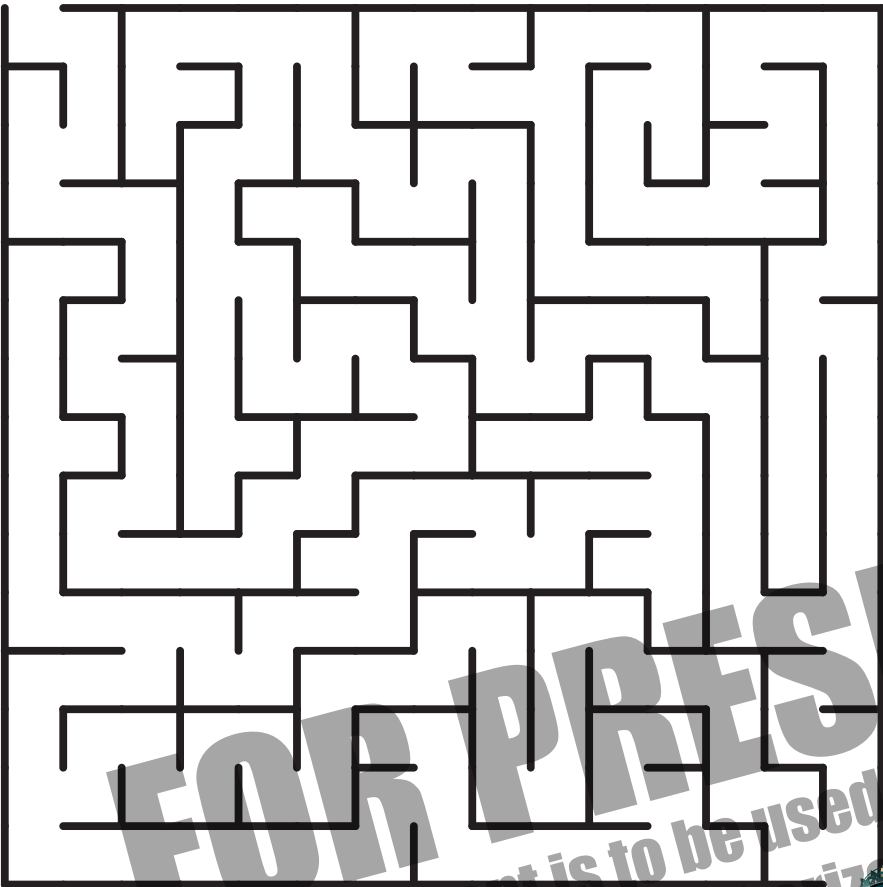


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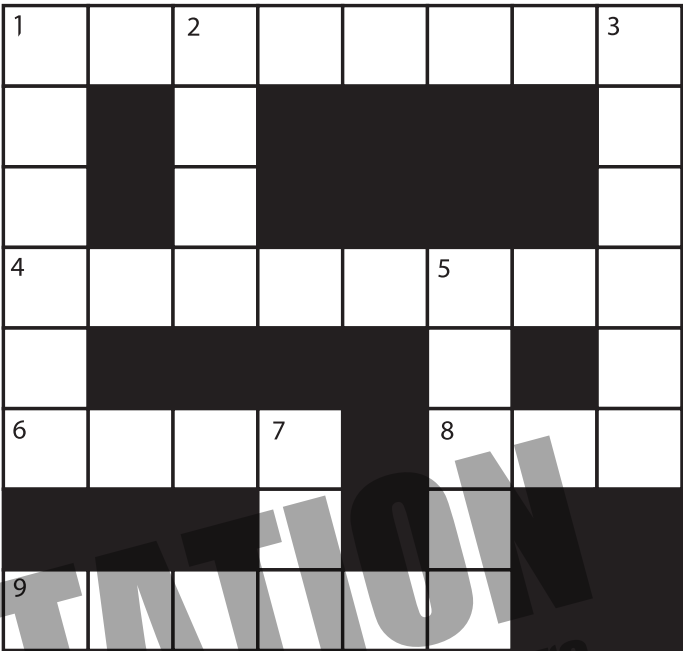


LADY LIBERTY MAZE

Help Lady Liberty find the top of her torch by making your way through the maze.
(Skill level: Ages 8 and up)



America the Beautiful Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Proclaims
- 4. One from the U.S.
- 6. Famous frontiersman Crockett
- 8. New York congresswoman
- 9. Approves legislation

DOWN

- 1. President ____ Trump
- 2. ____ Cod, MA
- 3. Beautiful view
- 5. Applauds at a parade
- 7. Vote of approval

Answers: Across 1. Declares 4. American 6. Davy 8. AOC 9. Passes
Down 1. Donald 2. Cape 3. scenic 5. Claps 7. Yes

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WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Three of these nine pictures are different. Can you find the differences?



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