

- Resources:
  - <http://www.pbs.org/a-capitol-fourth/history/history-independence-day/>
  - <https://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/jul04.html>
  - <http://www.crfcelebrateamerica.org/index.php/story/73-the-first-fourth-of-july>
  - [http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp\\_textbook.cfm?smtID=2&psid=3216](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=2&psid=3216)
  - <http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/v1ch18s16.html>
- Attention getter
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZMTifa3tkl>
- We all celebrate the 4th of July, our Independence day, most of us know something about the significance of it, you know, something to do with the Declaration of Independence, right? We may have heard a little about it in history classes, but who really listens to that? I find this day very significant, not only because it is a holiday, but also because it happens to be my birthday. Growing up I didn't know much about this holiday, and as the melodramatic macie you all know so well, I assumed it was all about me. The fireworks, parades, family get-togethers, and so much more. Now, as I've grown up a little, I better understand the meaning of this holiday.
- Under the British rule we as Americans felt under-represented and not free. Things such as the taxes placed upon us, you know, "Taxation without Representation", forced us Americans to want to do something about it. Early rebellions weren't really working that well as the British sent over soldiers to maintain the situation. The tough situations lead to the beginning of the American Revolution in April 1776. The revolution killed many, about 1% of the population. That is about 3 million dead in today's society in America. To put this in terms that may be more interesting to yall think of the Hunger games. The 13 districts are like the 13 colonies and the capitol is Britain. They took control of the districts like Britain did to the colony taking crops and other goods from the colonies. The breaking point of each was taxes for the colonies and the hunger games themselves for the districts. Both decided to rebel and try and get a fair and independent government. From there on June 11th, 1776, a committee was formed to try and find a way to draft a document that may help resolve the issues and declare our need, want and demand to be separated from Britain. The committee was formed of 5 people, Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman and Robert R Livingston. As most of you know, Thomas Jefferson was set to be the main writer of this document, and is today known as the Father of the Declaration of Independence. The declaration went through many alterations and changes before being approved, 86 to be exact. On July 4th 1776 this document was finally adopted, although it was not officially signed until August. It was not officially made a federal holiday until 1870, although celebrations started way before then, mostly after the War of 1812. In 1859, even the African Americans in Pennsylvania were urged to celebrate the holiday, keeping in mind the inconsistencies with slavery. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.", is a part of the Declaration of Independence that many people read and remember as an important part. We believed we were born with these rights yet for a long time we accepted being under British rule. It wasn't until

1763 that we decided to rebel and until 1775 for the fighting to begin. We had our major outbreaks that stood out and maybe made a difference such as the Boston Tea party, where we dumped tea into the harbor to rebel against taxes on the tea, but there were also horrible instances that led to the downfall of many rebels like during the Boston Massacre, where british soldiers shot into a rioting crowd killing 5. It is understandable that we grew tired of having to rebel for so long that we wished to declare our independence, and that is just what we did.