

Independence Day

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Introduction

By Amanda Bennett

This is it; the day has arrived when red, white, and blue abound! In our family, I remember the children debating whose turn it was to sit on Dad's shoulders for the fireworks, where to sit for the parade, and of course, who would spit the watermelon seeds the farthest. What a day of fun, family, picnics, parades, and fireworks. But wait—what are we celebrating? Summertime? The fourth of July? We are actually celebrating Independence Day—the day that is dedicated to the celebration of our forefathers' decision to claim independence from Britain's King George! Today we commemorate this step toward independence that happened hundreds of years ago.

In July 1776, the celebration was devoted to rejoicing, prayer, and thanksgiving, and we can do well by following their example and learning from their lessons. What a radical act of those patriots—to declare independence and break away from England! How could they even imagine they could be victorious? The King had more troops, money, and weapons. American colonies just had . . . what? A commitment to their natural rights endowed by God: freedom of religion and speech, to name just two. They were entirely devoted to a cause that they felt was God's will, and they were determined to follow His lead.

When we read about the sacrifice and suffering, the people and places, and the price paid to obtain our independence, we should be humbled. Let us never again take such freedoms for granted, for a great price has been paid for their purchase and protection. This week is going to be exciting, enlightening, and absolutely amazing. When you read about these patriots and how they planned and fought and wouldn't stop until they succeeded, you will never look at Independence Day in the same light again.

With the new Download N Go™ unit studies, you are about to begin a new kind of learning experience. Each study is one week in length, having five daily lessons with lapbook components for each day. The name, Download N Go™, comes from the concept that these studies are ready to use as soon as you have downloaded them. No preparation or waiting time or other expensive resources are required. A few inexpensive items are needed for the lapbook—a simple file folder, a glue stick, safety scissors, brass brads, and crayons or markers. That's it—simple, effective, and what a way to learn!

Now that you are beginning *Independence Day* in the Download N Go™ Series, get ready for a wonderful learning adventure about this holiday and all that it holds. Your child will investigate the history of Independence Day and learn about John Hancock, Thomas Jefferson, and other patriotic heroes. Each day your child will explore and investigate, creating and adding more learning components to his Independence Day lapbook—building a wonderful reminder of all that he is learning to be enjoyed for years to come.

Let's get ready for the adventure, and thanks for spending a week with us as we begin exploring Independence Day! Be sure to check out other related Download N Go™ studies, including *Constitution Celebration*, *George Washington*, and *Benjamin Franklin*.

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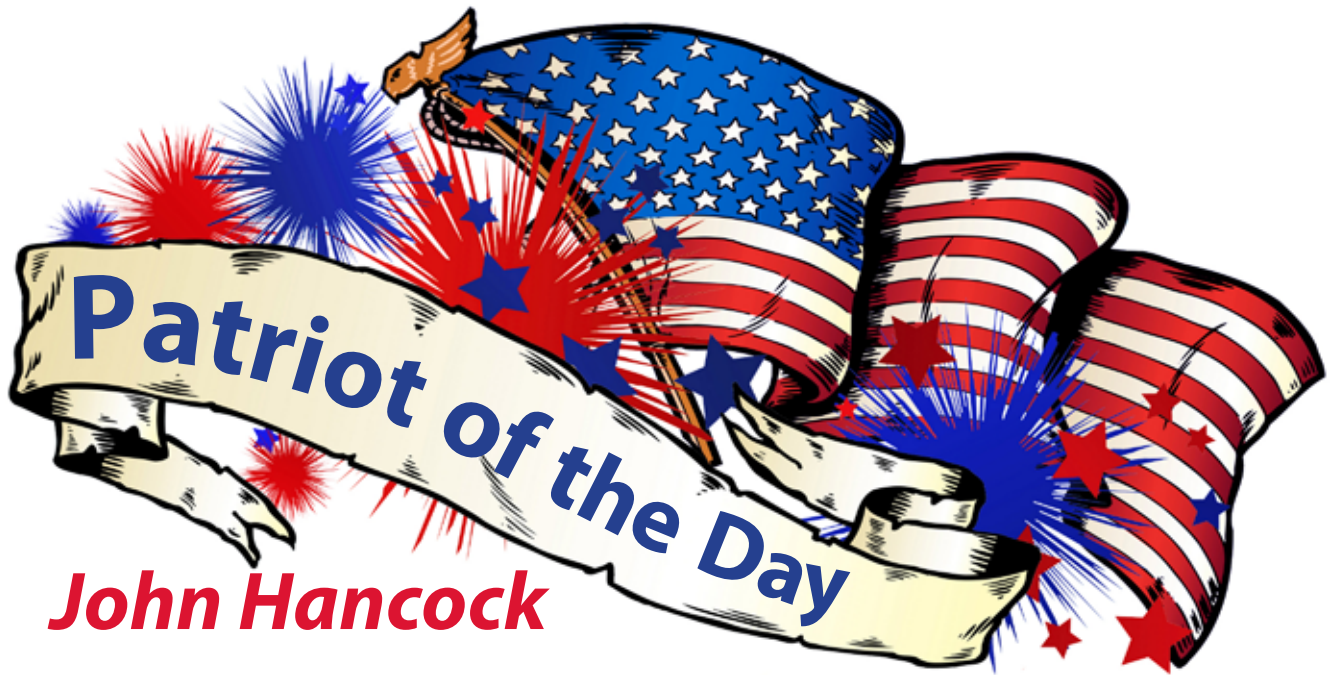


Notes to parents: *Remember that Internet site content can change overnight. Please check the sites you plan to use before your child visits them in the study.*

Some of the videos in this study are hosted by YouTube and include Google ads that cannot be completely avoided. These ads can be hidden by clicking on the X in the upper-right corner of the ad banner.



To conserve printer ink, please note that most printers have a variety of printing options (draft mode, economy mode, grayscale, black and white, etc.), which may reduce your ink usage. Refer to [this guide](#) for assistance in exploring your printer's options.



When was John Hancock born? *Write your answer below.*

[John Hancock](#)

Where was he born? *Mark this city on [your map](#).*

[John Hancock](#)

Why is John Hancock remembered? *Write your answer below.*

[John Hancock](#)

[John Hancock](#)



There's a famous saying that involves John Hancock's name. What does "Put your John Hancock here" mean? What's the story behind the famous phrase? Write your answer below.

[John Hancock](#) (scroll down to tenth paragraph)

Can you find John Hancock's signature on the Declaration of Independence among all the rest of the signatures? Circle his signature below.

