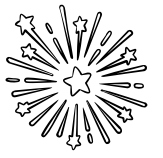


4th Fireworks



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Lighting Up the Sky:

The Tradition of Fireworks on the Fourth of July

Every year on July 4th, skies across the United States burst into dazzling displays of red, white, and blue. Fireworks have become a signature part of Independence Day, bringing people together to celebrate with light, sound, and community spirit.

But where did this tradition come from?

The roots go back to July 4, 1777—just one year after the Declaration of Independence was adopted. In Philadelphia, the anniversary was marked with bonfires, parades, and a “*grand exhibition of fireworks*.” The celebration captured the excitement of a young nation eager to honor its hard-won freedom.

John Adams, one of the Founding Fathers, had a clear vision for future celebrations. In a letter to his wife Abigail on July 3, 1776, he predicted the day would be remembered with “pomp and parade...bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other.” Although he believed July 2—the day independence was actually voted on—would be the big day, his spirit of celebration endures on the Fourth.

At the time, fireworks were already popular in Europe for royal and military celebrations. In America, they quickly became a way to express joy and patriotic pride. Their loud, colorful bursts symbolized the triumph over tyranny and the promise of liberty.

Over the centuries, fireworks evolved from small town gatherings to large-scale productions with music, choreography, and national broadcasts. Today, cities like Boston and Washington, D.C. host spectacular shows, while families in neighborhoods across the country light sparklers and Roman candles of their own.

More than just entertainment, fireworks serve as a sensory tribute to the courage, imagination, and determination that built the United States. They remind us of a defining moment in history—and invite us to look forward with hope, pride, and unity.

