THE FOURTH OF JULY

In Facts and Figures

On this day in 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Second Continental Congress, setting the 13 colonies on the road to freedom as a sovereign nation. The holiday offers a break from business, with a host of parades, fireworks and barbecues. Put down your muskets and enjoy!

ABOUT **1 in 3**

The odds that your side dish of baked beans originated in **North Dakota.**

MORE THAN **1 in 4**

The chance that the hot dogs and pork sausages consumed on the Fourth of July originated in **Iowa.**

There is a good chance your BARBECUED **chicken** came from GEORGIA, ARKANSAS, NORTH CAROLINA, ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI or TEXAS.

PACK A PICNIC

$209 million

The value of fireworks imported from China in 2009, representing the bulk of all U.S. fireworks imported.

By comparison, the U.S. exported **$42.9 million** in fireworks.

The United Arab Emirates bought more than any other country: **$14.5 million.**

STARS & STRIPES

"Resolved, that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field representing a new constellation."
—*adopted in Philadelphia by the Second Continental Congress, June 14, 1777*

You can buy a flag that's flown over the **CAPITOL**

Make a request through your senator or representative. A Certificate of Authenticity is issued by the Architect of the Capitol with each flag flown. Prices range from **$13.25** to **$22.55** (plus s+h).

$3 MILLION The amount of U.S. imports of American flags in **2009.**

$2.5 MILLION worth came from China.

MEXICO bought **$333,882** worth of U.S. flags in **2009.**

FOR A FINE CELEBRATION, THE NATION'S FIRST PRESIDENT might have enjoyed cranberry pudding, a colonial favorite.
Recipe from *The Mount Vernon Cookbook.*

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S CRANBERRY PUDDING SAUCE:

2 EGGS, BEATEN ★ 2 T SUGAR ★ PINCH SALT ★ 1/2 C SIFTED FLOUR ★ 1 1/2 C MOLASSES ★ 2 TSP BAKING SODA
1/3 C BOILING WATER ★ 1 1/2 C CRANBERRIES, HALVED

Combine eggs, sugar, salt and molasses. In a separate container, put 2 teaspoons of soda in 1/3 cup boiling water. Add to egg mixture. Stir in flour and cranberries. Steam in a buttered rice steamer for 1 1/2 hours. Serve warm with the following:
2 sticks butter ★ 2 cups sugar ★ 1 cup half-and-half. Melt butter. Add sugar and half-and-half and stir until sugar is dissolved. Serves 6 to 8.

KABOOM!

UNCLE SAM NEEDS YOU!

In 1843, the U.S. government set up an account to accept gifts from people wishing to express their patriotism. These days, the money is directed to pay down the debt. In 2009, people sent $3,063,057.05. So far this year: **$2,451,266.91.**

Washington (think: George) ranked **138th** among all last names in the 2000 Census.

Adams (John, John Quincy) came in **39th.**

31 towns across the land have "liberty" in their name. The biggest is Liberty, Mo. (POP. 30,568).

There is one place named **Patriot** (POP. 189). It's in Indiana.

BUY AMERICA

SINCE 1935, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed legislation creating the first "baby bond," U.S. Savings Bonds have encouraged saving and a broad participation by Americans in government financing.

The BRITISH are coming!

$93.2 BILLION Value of trade last year between the United States and Britain, making the British, our adversary in 1776, our sixth-leading trading partner today.

"DOODLE," found in old English dictionaries, meant a sorry, trifling fellow; a fool or simpleton.

One theory suggests that **"YANKEE"** (or "Yankey") was derived from "Nankey," which can be found in an unpleasant jingle about Oliver Cromwell.

"DANDY" survived as a description of a gentleman of affected manners, dress and hairstyle.

2.5 MILLION nation's estimated population in July 1776

309.6 MILLION estimated population now

TREASURE HUNT

BILLIONS OF DOLLARS in savings bonds have stopped earning interest but haven't been cashed. If you still have one, cash or reinvest it so your money can start working for you again.

YANKEE DOODLE

is one of America's oldest and most-loved marching airs. All taken, "Yankee Doodle" is a comic song and a parody. Indeed, the British made fun of ragtag American militiamen by playing "Yankee Doodle" even as they headed toward the Battle of Lexington and Concord.