



Honoring the Spirit of America

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“What Independence Day Means to Me”

Grades K-5

Brief Description: Students will create a mural illustrating the purpose of Independence Day and how Americans celebrate this holiday.

Objective: SSKH1(i) The student will identify the purpose of Independence Day and describe the people or events celebrated.

This objective covers GPS requirement **SSKH1(i)**

(For teachers outside the state of Georgia, check your local or state education curriculum to see what requirements this lesson plan may satisfy.)

Materials:

- Long sheets of butcher paper
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils
- Background information on why we celebrate Independence Day
 - Several sites can be found by searching “Independence Day” on an internet browser.
 - One site is Wikipedia, an encyclopedia site:
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independence_Day_\(United_States\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independence_Day_(United_States))
 - In addition to the material found at this site, there are several links listed at the bottom of the web page.

Procedure:

1. Begin a class discussion about what comes to mind when students hear “Independence Day”. Write responses on a board or chart paper.
2. Next, ask students how they celebrate Independence Day. Record these answers as well.
3. Finally, ask students why we celebrate Independence Day. Record answers. Students may need help generating ideas for this question. Share with students information gathered from the materials section, or have students research in their textbooks, or selected library books.
4. After students have grasped an understanding on why Independence Day is celebrated, and how Americans currently celebrate it, tell students that they are going to create a mural. Using a long sheet of butcher paper, have each student

- choose a spot on the paper to contribute to the class mural. Students should illustrate one way that Americans celebrate Independence Day. Examples include family barbecues, parades, and watching fireworks.
5. Extension activity: In addition to the students' pictures of how Americans celebrate Independence Day, have students illustrate one event leading up to America's independence from Britain. Examples include Boston Tea Party and signing the Declaration of Independence.

Assessment:

Evaluate the accurateness of each student's illustrations.