

B2-C1 Worksheet: America at 250: Celebration, Memory and Culture - 02 July 2026

Article

On 4 July 2026, the United States will mark a milestone: 250 years since the Declaration of Independence. The anniversary has brought nationwide events, including a Great American State Fair on the National Mall, fireworks, concerts, parades and community gatherings. The fair helps kick off the main celebrations. Organisers say such events can bring people together. They invite citizens to look back on the country's history and look ahead to its future.

Yet the mood is not simple. America remains a divided society, and some critics argue that patriotic events can paper over deeper arguments about inequality, immigration, race and political trust. Others see the anniversary as a rare chance to step back from daily conflict and remember shared symbols, from national parks and city landmarks to music, films, food and sport. Even people outside the US often have strong views about American culture, whether they admire its openness or find its influence overwhelming.

The anniversary also raises lighter questions. Millions of visitors travel across America each year to see New York, California, the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, New Orleans and other places made famous by films and popular culture. Some people show up for history; others take part in family barbecues, concerts or fireworks nights. The mix of celebration, criticism and curiosity shows why America at 250 is more than a birthday. It is a chance to ask what patriotism means, how countries tell their stories, how events can avoid becoming too commercialised, and how citizens can give back without ignoring uncomfortable truths.

True/False

Decide if each statement is True (T) or False (F).

1. The article says America is marking 250 years since the Declaration of Independence.
2. The Great American State Fair is described as taking place in California.
3. Organisers hope the events will help people look back on history and look ahead to the future.
4. The article says American society is completely united.
5. The article mentions inequality, immigration, race and political trust as deeper issues.
6. The article says people outside the US never have opinions about American culture.
7. Popular culture is presented as one reason visitors travel across America.
8. The final paragraph suggests celebration and honest reflection can both matter.

Phrase Match

Match the phrases (1-10) to the correct definitions (A-J).

Phrases (1-10)	Definitions (A-J)
1. mark a milestone	A. to hide a problem without solving it
2. kick off	B. to attend or arrive
3. look back on	C. to think about the future
4. bring people together	D. to celebrate an important point
5. paper over	E. to move from one area to another
6. take part in	F. to begin
7. show up	G. to join an activity
8. give back	H. to remember or review the past
9. travel across	I. to help or support in return
10. look ahead	J. to unite people

Synonym Match

Match the words (1-10) to the correct synonyms (A-J).

Words (1-10)	Synonyms (A-J)
1. milestone	A. countrywide
2. nationwide	B. monuments
3. anniversary	C. unfairness
4. divided	D. national pride
5. patriotism	E. migration
6. commercialised	F. interest
7. inequality	G. commemoration
8. immigration	H. polarised
9. landmarks	I. turning point
10. curiosity	J. turned into business

Use the new language

Please choose 5 words or phrases and make your own sentence using the new word or phrase.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Discussion Questions

Student A

1. Have you ever visited the United States, or would you like to go?
2. Which American city, state or landmark interests you most?
3. What is the first thing you think of when you hear "American culture"?
4. Which American food, film, song, sport or TV show do you genuinely like?
5. Is there anything about American culture you find confusing or surprising?
6. Would you rather experience fireworks, a road trip, a national park or a big city?
7. Do national celebrations in your country feel exciting or routine?
8. What makes a public celebration feel authentic rather than forced?

Student B

1. Can a national anniversary bring people together when a country is politically divided?
2. Should countries look back on painful parts of history during a celebration?
3. Is patriotism different from nationalism, or are they too closely connected?
4. Do global films, music and brands make America more attractive or more dominant?
5. Can a country be proud of its achievements while still admitting its failures?
6. Do big anniversaries become too commercialised through merchandise, tourism and sponsorship?
7. What role do immigrants play in shaping a national story?
8. After 250 years, what should a country want the rest of the world to respect about it?

Answer Key

True/False: 1=T, 2=F, 3=T, 4=F, 5=T, 6=F, 7=T, 8=T

Phrase Match: 1=D, 2=F, 3=H, 4=J, 5=A, 6=G, 7=B, 8=I, 9=E, 10=C

Synonym Match: 1=I, 2=A, 3=G, 4=H, 5=D, 6=J, 7=C, 8=E, 9=B, 10=F

Example sentences with the phrases

1. The anniversary will mark a milestone in American history.
2. The parade will kick off at midday.
3. National anniversaries help people look back on the past.
4. Music and food can bring people together during public events.
5. A celebration should not paper over serious social problems.
6. Many families take part in local Fourth of July events.
7. Thousands of visitors show up for major fireworks displays.
8. Some people give back by volunteering in their communities.
9. Tourists travel across America to visit famous landmarks.
10. A 250th anniversary also invites people to look ahead.