

CELEBRATING AMERICA'S

Past, Present, and Future

INFOhio

July 4, 2026, marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Using courage, perseverance, and resilience, Americans have built a nation of explorers and leaders. Throughout the year, use the eBooks, videos, and activities below to celebrate the spirit of community, citizenship, and exploration.



- ★ Working with a parent, sibling, grown-up, or friend, follow the directions on each square.
- ★ After you complete the activity, share what you learned with a parent, sibling, grown-up, or friend.
- ★ Challenge yourself to complete all nine activities!

Grades
PreK-4

Check out each activity by typing bit.ly/past-pres-future in your browser.
Then click the square to go to the activity's resource.

Design & Celebrate Your Own Flag

- ★ Read this eBook about the history of the flag of the United States of America.
- ★ Create your own flag out of crafting supplies and have a mini parade in your living room showing off your new creation.

Thank a Community Member

- ★ Explore this eBook and talk about why community helpers are important for each community.
- ★ Create a thank you card for a community helper in your area, and personally deliver it to show your appreciation.

Build Your Family Timeline

- ★ Browse this eBook and the fun facts found in the "Did You Know?" sections. Look at the timeline on page 26.
- ★ Create a timeline of your family's history together.

Practice & Display the Pledge Together

- ★ Learn the Pledge of Allegiance while reading this eBook.
- ★ Make a poster that has the words to the Pledge of Allegiance on it.
- ★ Practice reciting it, and don't forget to place your hand over your heart while you do.

Learn Fun Facts About Cardinals

- ★ Read this eBook about Ohio's state bird, the cardinal.
- ★ Make a book about cardinals and write about their favorite foods and how they make music.

Sing & Share Your Star-Spangled Moment

- ★ Check out this eBook and listen to the words of "The Star-Spangled Banner" on page 23.
- ★ Practice singing the song, and when you've mastered this, send a video to a grandparent or family friend.

Imagine Your Journey to the Moon

- ★ Read about Neil Armstrong and see how he became the first person on the moon.
- ★ Create a short story with pictures about traveling to the moon.

Create a Good Citizen Scavenger Hunt

- ★ Read this eBook and think of ways you can be a good citizen in your community.
- ★ Create a scavenger hunt using your ideas.

Share a Quilt of Courageous Symbols

- ★ Read this eBook to discover how Harriet Tubman helped people escape from slavery by using secret paths known as the Underground Railroad.
- ★ Create quilt squares with symbols of hope, safety, or courage on a piece of construction paper.

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Grades
5-8

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Find Your U.S. Representative

- ★ In this two-minute video, learn about how the framers wrote the Constitution to provide for a separation of powers, or three separate branches of government.
- ★ Find your U.S. representative at www.house.gov.

Step Back in Time with Primary Sources

- ★ Read the accounts of immigrants who passed through Ellis Island. Explore the photos documenting the experience.
- ★ Select one of the photos, and write a one-paragraph fictional story from the perspective of a person in the photo.

Explore Uncharted Lands with Lewis and Clark

- ★ The compass Lewis and Clark carried was among their most valued items.
- ★ After reading this eBook, make a list of the items you would take as you explore a new place.

Know Your Founding Documents

- ★ What's the difference between the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights? Find out with this eBook.
- ★ Reflect on the impact the freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights have on you today.

Get to Know Civil Rights Leaders

- ★ America's history is rooted in leaders and trailblazers. Read this eBook to learn about the leaders of the Civil Rights movement.
- ★ Select one of the leaders featured. Search bit.ly/infohio6-8 to find an eBook about this leader.

Learn About the History of Voting Rights

- ★ In this two-minute video, learn about the history of voting rights in the United States.
- ★ After watching this video, reflect on the impact this history has on you today.

Find a National Park in Your Backyard

- ★ Did you know Ohio is home to eight national park sites? Read more about "the best idea we ever had" in this eBook about the national parks.
- ★ Find a national park site to explore.

A Musical 250 Years in the making

- ★ In 2015, Lin-Manuel Miranda told the story of the birth of our nation with music and dance. Learn more about Miranda in this eBook.
- ★ Think about an event from American history and write it as a scene in a movie or play.

Make a Difference in Your Community

- ★ Follow in the footsteps of great American leaders and trailblazers. Read this eBook to learn about the different ways you can volunteer.
- ★ Use what you learned to find opportunities to help in your community.