



The Mini Page

Next Week:
Our states:
Louisiana

Issue 25, 2024

Founded by Betty Debnam



photo courtesy Fireworks by Grucci Inc.

Safe Fun With Fireworks

On July 4, our country celebrates its 248th birthday. Many of us will honor Independence Day with cookouts, reunions and fireworks.

Fireworks history

Today, the fireworks shows we watch may be controlled by computer equipment. They sometimes have music that plays along with the explosions.

But fireworks have been a part of celebrations for centuries. In many ways, fireworks haven't changed much.

Most experts agree that the Chinese probably invented fireworks more than 1,000 years ago. Colonists from England and Europe probably brought them when they settled in America.

"Illuminations," the Colonists' word for fireworks, were used at the celebration of the new country on July 4, 1776.

Be careful

Fireworks are exciting and fun, but they have to be used carefully. In 2022, about 10,000 people were injured by fireworks.

Make sure you know how to use fireworks safely and have adults nearby to help. Of course, the safest way to enjoy fireworks is to let the professionals put on the show for you.



Image courtesy Library of Congress
At the first inauguration of President Grover Cleveland in 1885, fireworks were part of the celebration in Washington, D.C.

Safety spelled out

F

• **Fire is always dangerous. Be careful with lighters, punks and sparklers.**

I

• **Never use Illegal fireworks.**

R

• **Never Re-light a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in water.**

E

• **Eye protection should be worn when using fireworks.**

This graphic shows which body parts are injured most often by fireworks accidents.



image courtesy Consumer Products Safety Commission

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Mini Fact:

Fireworks designers use chemicals to create different colors, including lime green and turquoise.

W

• **Have a bucket of Water to put used fireworks in.**

O

• **Light only One firework at a time.**

R

• **Read the directions on fireworks and use them as intended.**

K

• **Kids should be supervised by adults when using fireworks.**

S

• **It is not Safe to point fireworks at other people or animals.**

Make a plan with your family about the fireworks safety rules you will follow on July 4. Hang up this issue of The Mini Page to help you remember how to stay safe.



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Resources



On the Web:

• bit.ly/1VITIUA

At the library:

- "Eureka" by Lori Haskins Houran
- "How It Happens at the Fireworks Factory" by Megan Rocker

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of firework safety are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ADULTS, BUCKET, CELEBRATION, CHINESE, DAY, DIRECTIONS, DUD, EXPLOSION, EYE, FIREWORKS, INDEPENDENCE, INJURY, PROTECTION, PUNK, SAFETY, SHOW, SPARKLER, WATER.

I U S K R O W E R I F H S A D
I N D E P E N D E N C E W B I
P R O T E C T I O N G F A W R
A D U L T S Y R U J N I T D E
D W P N O I T A R B E L E C C
A O U Y T E F A S X R I R A T
Y H N I N N P E S E N I H C I
L S K R E L K R A P S E E D O
N O I S O L P X E Q Y P S U N
C N X B U C K E T E U M U D S

Cook's Corner

Pineapple Pudding Cake

You'll need:

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 3 whole eggs
- 1 (15.25-ounce) can crushed pineapple (with juice)

- 1 (1-ounce) box vanilla pudding mix (not instant)
- 2 cups 1% milk
- 1 (12-ounce) tub fat-free whipped topping
- 1 cup shredded coconut



What to do:

1. Prepare cake mix and bake according to package directions in a 9-by-13-inch glass baking dish coated with cooking spray.
2. Remove cake from oven and immediately pierce holes in top of cake with a fork. Pour canned pineapple and juice over top. Allow to cool.
3. Prepare pudding according to package directions. Spread pudding over top of pineapple. Top with whipped topping and coconut. Chill before serving. Serves 6.

* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

Mini Jokes



Frank: What do you get when you cross a dinosaur with a firework?
Fiona: Dinomite!

Eco Note



Researchers say they believe lab mice might sometimes be doing their own experiments while humans try to experiment on them. Writing in the journal Current Biology, scientists say that when lab rodents suddenly change the expected behavior required to receive rewards, they may actually have just become bored or are curious to see what will happen if they do. While it may look like a mouse is making lots of errors during experiments, it is really getting smarter by making them.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about fireworks displays in your area.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



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1. Providing or using protection or concern (7-letter adjective)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

2. To direct the action or behavior of; restrain (7-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

3. To keep from happening; to hold or keep back (7-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

4. A point or place that is far away (8-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. Teenagers must be very _____ when lighting sparklers.
2. Cities or counties may _____ the use of fireworks.
3. Parents help _____ accidents by watching over their kids.
4. Fireworks are best viewed from a _____.

ROOTONYM®
by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Careful, Control, Prevent, Distance.

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