

## Home to Liberty



photos courtesy NPS

**Mini Fact:** This photo shows the north side of Independence Hall.

Independence Hall in Philadelphia is often called the birthplace of our country. This famous building, which was built between 1732 and 1751 to be the Pennsylvania State House, is in very good shape after standing for more than 260 years.

Many important events happened there, including:

- The Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776.
- The Constitution, a plan for governing our country, was adopted in 1787.

Today, this site is a National Historical Park managed by the National Park Service. In honor of Independence Day on July 4, let's visit Independence Hall.

**Delegates to the Constitutional Convention met in the Assembly Room at Independence Hall.**




image courtesy Architect of the Capitol

**The Rising Sun chair**


When George Washington served as president of the convention to write the Constitution, he sat in a chair at the front of the Assembly Room. A sun design was on the back of the chair. (You can see the chair behind George Washington in the painting above.)

At the close of the convention, Ben Franklin made a remark about that design, which he had often wondered about.

“I have often looked at that design on the chair behind the president without being able to tell whether it was rising (going up) or setting (going down.)”

“But now, at length, I have the happiness to know that it is a rising and not a setting sun.”

Ben Franklin meant that he expected that the Constitution written by the convention would last and last.



The Rising Sun chair


**A historic building**

Independence Hall is a two-story building with a tower and cellar. It has two wings. Visitors enter in the East Wing. An exhibit displays copies of the first printed Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

The Pennsylvania legislature loaned its Assembly Room to the Second Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention. It is where the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were signed.



The Assembly Room



Lettering on the bell reads: “Proclaim LIBERTY Throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants Thereof.”

**The Liberty Bell**

The Liberty Bell was originally made to hang in the steeple of the Pennsylvania State House. It was made in 1752 by a British foundry\*.

When the bell arrived in Philadelphia, officials mounted it on a stand to test the sound, but the rim of the bell cracked when it was first struck. Two local metal casters, John Pass and John Stow, melted the original bell down and made a new bell, which was ready in 1753. However, the sound of the new bell was not good. Pass and Stow again removed the bell and recast it, and three months later it was hung in the steeple.

Almost a century later, in the 1840s, a narrow crack developed in the bell. Metal workers tried to repair it, but another crack appeared, and it has not been rung since.

Today, the bell hangs in the Liberty Bell Center near Independence Hall.

\* A foundry is a building or factory where metals are produced.


**Resources**

**On the Web:**

- [www.nps.gov/inde/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/inde/index.htm)
- [bit.ly/MPbellsound](http://bit.ly/MPbellsound)

**At the library:**

- “Exploring Independence Hall” by Emma Huddleston




**Try 'n' Find**

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

ASSEMBLY, BELL, CAST, CHAIR, CONSTITUTION, CRACK, DELEGATES, FOUNDRY, FRANKLIN, HALL, INDEPENDENCE, LIBERTY, PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA, ROOM, SIGN, STEEPLE, SUN, WASHINGTON.

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



**Cook's Corner**

**Cheddar Baked Snack Mix**

**You'll need:**


- 1 cup unsalted mini pretzel twists
- 1 cup rice cereal squares
- 1 cup corn cereal squares
- 4 slices pumpernickel bread, cut into 2-inch pieces

**What to do:**

1. Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Coat large baking sheet with cooking spray.
2. In large bowl, combine pretzels, cereal squares and bread. Add canola oil and toss to coat. Add cheese powder and toss to coat everything.
3. Spread mixture out on baking sheet in single layer. Bake for 15 minutes, stirring halfway through cooking, until golden brown. Serves 4.

• 1 tablespoon canola oil

• 2 tablespoons white cheddar cheese powder



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

Adapted from "The Robin Takes 5 Cookbook for Busy Families" with permission from Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com).

**7 Little Words for Kids**

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. shirt part around the neck (6) \_\_\_\_\_

2. pull apart like Silly Putty (7) \_\_\_\_\_

3. blue "Inside Out" character (7) \_\_\_\_\_


4. pilots fly them (6) \_\_\_\_\_

5. avoid (5) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Will and Jada's acting son (5) \_\_\_\_\_

7. behind three people in line (6) \_\_\_\_\_

SS	PLA	EN	STR
JAD	COL	FOU	DOD
ET	NE	SAD	CH
GE	RTH	NES	LAR



Answers: collar, stretch, Sadness, planes, dodgy, Jaden, fourth.

**Mini Jokes**

**Ian:** What happens when you illegally park your frog?


**Inga:** It gets toad away!



**Eco Note**

Fish and shellfish are a major source of food worldwide. Small-scale fishing does little harm to fish populations, but commercial fishing fleets gather such large hauls that some seas have very few fish left. For example, the Grand Banks off Newfoundland, Canada, were once a rich fishing ground for cod. But fishing fleets came from far and wide to collect the fish, and cod stocks dropped sharply. In 1992, the cod fishery collapsed, affecting marine food chains and putting many local fishermen out of work.


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**For later:**

Look for items in your newspaper about Fourth of July celebrations.

**Teachers:** For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: [bit.ly/MPstandards](http://bit.ly/MPstandards). And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!



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