## Did You Know?

Originally July was the month of 'Quintilis' in the Roman calendar since it was the fifth month of the year; January and February were added in 450 BC. The Roman Senate changed its name to honor their general, Julius Caesar, for his birth month.

### US Independence Day (https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/july-4th)

When the initial Revolutionary War battles broke out in April 1775, only a few 'radical' colonists wanted complete independence from Great Britain. Thanks to spread of revolutionary sentiments such as Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" published early 1776, eventually independence became popular.

A formal motion for the colonies' independence was introduced when the Continental Congress met at the Pennsylvania State House (later Independence Hall) in Philadelphia June 7. Amid heated debate, Congress postponed the vote on this resolution but appointed a five-man committee—Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, and Robert R. Livingston of New York—to draft a formal justification for a break with Great Britain. The Continental Congress July 4 formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, which had been written largely by Jefferson.

Before this time, colonists had held annual celebrations of the king's birthday that traditionally included bell ringing, bonfires, processions, and speech-making. In 1776, colonists celebrated by holding mock funerals for King George III to mark the end of the monarchy's hold on America. George Washington issued double rum rations to his soldiers July 4th in 1778 and in 1781, months before the key Battle of York Town victory. Patriotic celebration became even more widespread after the War of 1812, in which the United States again faced Great Britain. In 1870, Congress made July 4th a federal holiday; in 1941, the provision was expanded to grant a paid holiday to federal employees.

### Bastille Day

To the common people, the Bastille, a prison in Paris, represented all that was wrong with the monarchy. The French Revolution began July 14, 1789, when soldiers stormed the Bastille. Three years later in 1792 the French Republic was formed. July 14 is a national holiday in France, with many public events, including the Bastille Day Military Parade in Paris, the first of which was in 1880. Today it marches down the Champs-Elysees to be addressed by the French President and foreign ambassadors. The Tour de France takes place during Bastille Day. US cities famous for their celebrations of Bastille Day include Milwaukee, New Orleans, New York, and Chicago.

### Canada Day

This national holiday celebrates the anniversary of the Constitution Act, signed July 1, 1867, when the three British colonies of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Province of Canada were united into one federation called Canada. Official celebrations are held on Parliament Hill in the capital city of Ottawa, Ontario. Queen Elizabeth II has visited Canada several times to celebrate the day. The day is not as popular in Quebec where July 1 is also "moving day," a day when lease agreements are up.

## What Else Happened in July?

**1889**: The Wall Street Journal was first published.

**1923**: Insulin was introduced.

**1925**: The Scopes Trial began.

**1930**: Hoover Dam construction began in the Black Canyon of the Colorado River.

**1936**: The Spanish Civil War started as a revolt by right-wing military Spanish officers in Morocco.

**1937**: Amelia Earhart went missing.

**1940**: The German Luftwaffe bombed Great Britain.

**1941**: The Enigma code was broken.

**1942**: Anne Frank and her family took refuge in a secret sealed-off area of an Amsterdam warehouse.

**1947**: Roswell Army Airfield issued a press release stating that a crashed "flying disc" had been recovered from a nearby ranch.

**1952**: Puerto Rico became a self-governing commonwealth of the US.

**1954**: Rationing ended in Great Britain after 14 years.

**1955**: President Eisenhower signed a bill requiring 'In God We Trust' on all paper money.

**1956**: The Suez Crisis began.

**1959**: Alaska became the 49th state.

**1960**: Hawaii became the 50th state.

**1963**: Zip codes were introduced in the US.

**1964**: The Civil Rights Act was signed into law by President Johnson.

**1965**: The Social Security Act, signed by President Johnson, established Medicare and Medicaid programs financed by higher Social Security payroll taxes.

**1966**: Eight student nurses were brutally murdered by Richard Speck in Chicago.

**1967**: Race riots began in Newark NJ after a black cab driver was arrested and beaten by police.

**1969**: Apollo 11 astronauts landed on the moon; Armstrong and Aldrin left the first human footprints.

**1976**: Legionnaires Disease first appeared.

**1976**: The first perfect 10 in Olympic gymnastics was awarded Romania's 4'11", 88lb Nadia Comaneci on the women's uneven parallel bars.

**1977**: Lightning to a Hudson River substation tripped two circuit breakers in Westchester county, followed by a second strike that knocked our two 345,000-volt transmission lines, resulting in a 25-hour blackout of the New York area.

**1978**: Lesley Brown gave birth to the first test tube baby (in vitro fertilization) in Oldham, England.

**1985**: The Greenpeace ship, Rainbow Warrior, was sunk by a bomb planted by French agents.

**1995**: A heat wave killed 2,000 people in IL and WI; Chicago temperature reached 106°F.

**1996**: Dolly the Sheep was cloned at Roslin Institute in Scotland.

**1997**: Woolworth's, begun in 1879, announced closure of its last 400 stores.

**2009**: The longest total solar eclipse of the 21st century lasted 6'38" off the coast of southeast Asia.