

# Independence Day

**“Think forward! Concentrate on who you want to be and where you want to go, not on who you were or where you’ve been.”**

— Michael Josephson, founder of Josephson Institute (b. 1942)  
(Foundations for Life, Elementary, Volume 1, Issue 1, #22)

## Overview:

Students will discuss the themes associated with Independence Day and the holiday. Using elements of the Independence Day holiday as a guide, students will brainstorm and work in pairs to develop a slide-show describing a new holiday which will help them develop themes. A useful site for introducing students to power-point presentations is here: <http://www.actden.com/pp>

## Objectives:

- Students will refine their understanding of the themes associated with the Independence Day holiday.
- Students will develop appreciation of what is required to make others aware of important symbols in theme-building.
- Students will work in pairs to develop a new holiday based on their knowledge of symbols.
- Students will create holiday booklets, poster, or power point presentations to illustrate their new holiday.

## Materials:

- Organization Chart
- Access to computers
- Clip-art sites

## Procedure:

1. Introduce Independence Day by writing it on the board.
2. Brainstorm with the students. Ask them what the purpose of the holiday is (to celebrate Independence), why it is important (answers will vary), and who celebrates it (answers will vary).
3. Brainstorm for images and symbols students associate with the holiday.
4. Distribute the Organization Charts.
5. Explain that the different symbols can be divided into different categories. These categories are all important in developing people’s idea of Independence Day.
6. Work together as a class to divide the symbols into the Key Categories in the Organization Chart.



## Independence Day -cont.

7. Tell the class they will work as pairs to develop their own holiday.

8. Tell them to think about the questions asked in the first brainstorming session. You may want to refresh their memories with these.

9. Tell the students to create a holiday with their partner that includes those same themes, and to include the following information about their holiday:

- Purpose of their holiday
- Background/history/founders
- Date(s) of their holiday
- Decorations and/or colors involved
- Foods associated with the holiday
- Symbol to represent the holiday
- If it is international, or a U.S holiday

10. Once the students have planned their holiday and clearly explained it to the class, have them create a slide show which illustrates the themes.

*Suggested Activity: Ask the pairs to present their holidays to the class and have other students vote for their favorite.*



# Elementary Independence Day

## Holiday Organization Chart

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Symbols Holidays	Visual (Sight) Symbols	Aural (Sound) Symbols	Food (Sound) Symbols	Historic Symbols
Independence Day				
Your Holiday				