

comprehension passage and



Read the text and complete the tasks below.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July is an important day for Americans. It is the day their country was born. On July 4<sup>th</sup> 1776, Congress officially adopted the Declaration of Independence and announced to the world that they were a free nation, independent from Great Britain. Although Americans have celebrated July 4<sup>th</sup> since 1777, it didn't really become a **federal** legal holiday until 1941. So, what do Americans do on this day?

July 4<sup>th</sup> celebrations often take place outdoors. People decorate their homes with streamers, fake rockets, balloons and flags. Everything is done up in red, white, and blue, the colours of the "The Star-Spangled Banner", the name of the US national **anthem** and one of the nicknames of the American flag. The flag has 50 stars for the fifty states and 13 stripes for the first 13 colonies. In the morning, lots of people dress up and go out in the street to watch the parades. The biggest parade is in Washington D.C., the capital of the USA. Afterwards families get together by hosting or attending a picnic or barbecue. In many cities people have **block parties**. Then, they watch or play a baseball game. At night, they watch firework displays, usually accompanied by patriotic songs. Firework shows are held in many states with the Macy's Firework Spectacular in New York, typically being the most impressive. It's a fun day for everyone.

**B. Mark (T) for True or (F) for False**

- 1) On July 4th Americans celebrate their independence from France. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) The Declaration of Independence was officially approved in 1776. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) It became a national holiday in 1776. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) July 4th was first celebrated in 1777. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) The American national anthem is called "The Star-Spangled Banner". \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) The US has 13 states. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) People watch parades on July 4th. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) The national colours are red and blue. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) On July 4th night, they play baseball. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) New York has the largest parade. \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Choose the best answer:**

- 1) The Declaration of Independence was written in ...  
a) 1776      b) 1777      c) 1941
- 2) Americans celebrate with ...  
a) picnics and flags  
b) parades and firework displays  
c) barbecues and streamers
- 3) Most people spend this day with their...  
a) families    b) friends    c) both of these
- 4) The flag is also called ...  
a) Red Striped Banner  
b) Star Striped Banner  
c) Star Spangled Banner
- 5) Americans ... Independence Day  
a) enjoy      b) don't mind    c) hate