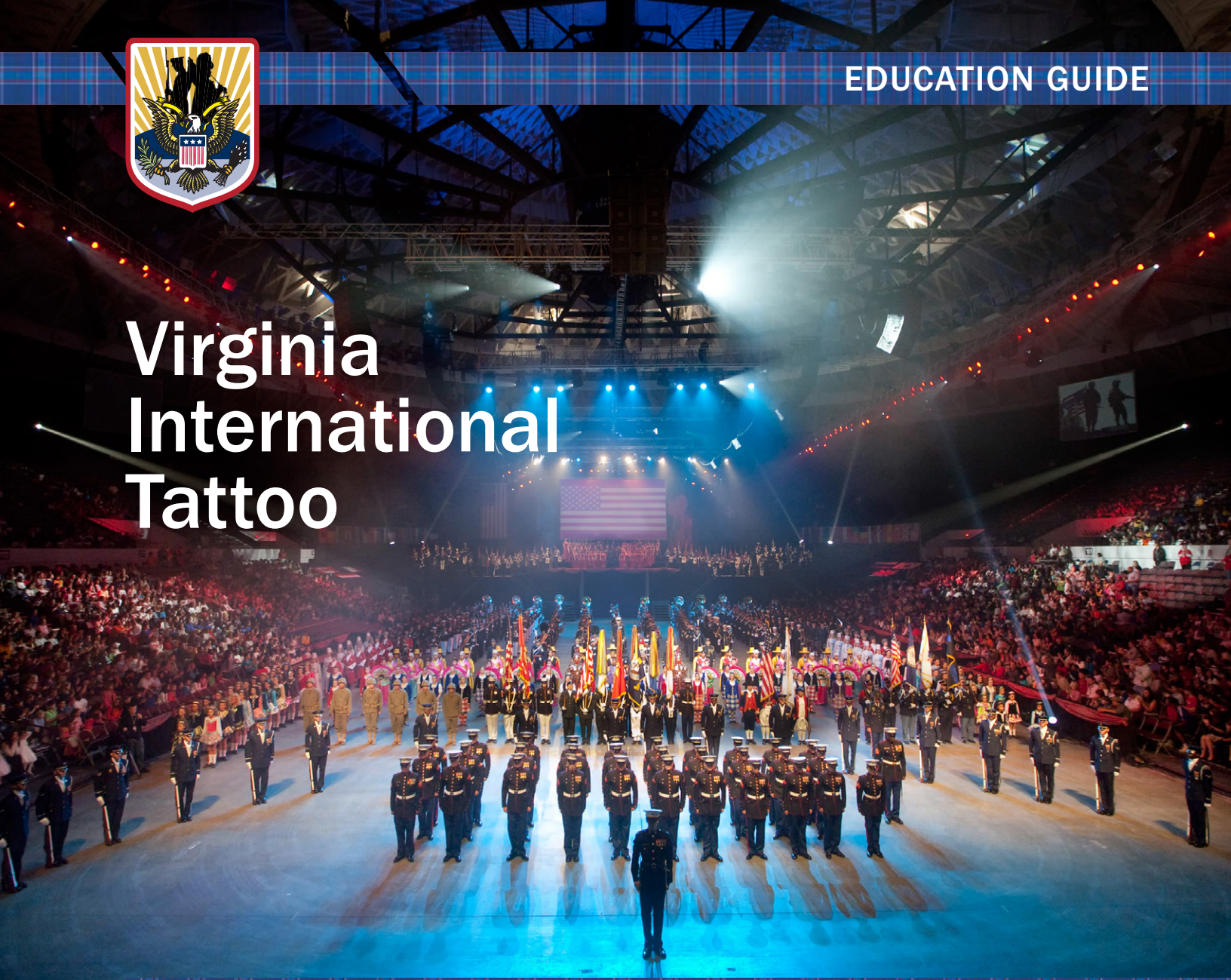




# Virginia International Tattoo



## VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL 2026

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## What in the World's a Tattoo?

### *Doe den tap toe!*

That's Dutch for "Turn off the taps!" It's a phrase used four hundred years ago when British soldiers fought with their Protestant Dutch, Swiss, and German allies in the Low Countries, now the Netherlands and Belgium. When the troops weren't off fighting, they joined the local townspeople at taverns and inns, eating, drinking, and enjoying fellowship.

To summon the soldiers back to their quarters for the night, a single military drummer would march through the towns beating a "doe den tap toe" message to the innkeepers to turn off the taps, or stop serving ale.

This signal was eventually trimmed to "tap toe" and then "tattoo," perhaps because of the drum's "rat-a-tat" sound. But while its name was shortened, the size and scope of the ceremony grew as British soldiers brought the tradition back home to the United Kingdom.

Over the centuries, music and marching were added to the tattoo. Massed military bands dressed in colorful uniforms and marched in impressive formations, playing drums, fifes, bagpipes, and other instruments. The tattoo, once a simple command to close the taverns, became a mighty display of military pageantry.

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Scotland, established in 1950, is one of the most popular of these exhibitions. Every year two hundred thousand people attend this tattoo at historic Edinburgh Castle.

Other countries also host tattoos, such as the Norwegian Military Tattoo and the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo of Canada. Each event is different and shaped by the culture of the country in which it is presented. Today, most tattoos include civilian entertainment as well as military bands and honor performers from nations outside of the host nation.

# Virginia International Tattoo

Now in its twenty-ninth year, the Virginia International Tattoo brings together hundreds of performers from around the world in a spectacular exhibition of music, marching, and more. Massed pipes and drums, precision drill teams, resplendent marching bands, colorful dancers, and melodious choirs perform together, creating the grandest show of its kind in the United States. This year's Tattoo celebrates the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States in 1776 with the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

## 2026 Virginia International Tattoo Cast

### CANADA

Royal Canadian Air Force Pipes and Drums

### FRANCE

Musique de la Marine Nationale (National Band of the French Navy)

### REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Republic of Korea Army Military Band and Honor Guard Battalion

### UNITED KINGDOM

Dougie Anderson  
King's Color Squadron of the Royal Air Force

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Camden County Emerald Society Pipes and Drums  
Hampton Roads Police Color Guards  
Kilgore College Rangerettes  
The Kiltie Band of York  
Norfolk Fire-Rescue Honor Guard  
Norfolk Public Schools Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps  
Old Dominion University Concert Choir  
Rhodes Academy of Irish Dance  
Rhythm Project  
Tidewater Pipes and Drums  
U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Band  
U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps  
U.S. Marine Corps FAST Company  
U.S. Marine Corps 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band  
U.S. Navy Fleet Forces Band  
Virginia Symphony Orchestra Chorus



## Tattoo-riffic! What to Expect

The Virginia International Tattoo is an extravaganza of amazing sights and incredible sounds. Here's what you will see and hear:

### Musical instruments

Long ago, before radio or digital communications, musical instruments were a vital part of military life. Drums provided rhythms for marching. Bugles, trumpets, and fifes relayed orders from commanders to soldiers in the field. Scottish bagpipers served in the military as far back as the 1600s. As the bagpipes were played into battle, their big, bold sound lifted the troops' spirits and struck fear in the hearts of their enemies.

### Marching

In most countries, marching is part of basic military training. Obeying drill commands (the orders for marching, saluting, and standing at attention) requires discipline. To march in formation as a single unit, each individual in the group must keep in mind their dress, cover, interval, and distance.

**Dress:** alignment with the person to either side

**Cover:** alignment with the person in front

**Interval:** space between the person to either side

**Distance:** space between the person in front

### Military uniforms

You may wear a uniform at school, in your scout troop, or for your sports team. The uniform identifies you as a member of that group. Members of military organizations wear uniforms to show that they belong to the armed forces of a particular nation. A country's military uniform often reflects its history and traditions. In the United Kingdom, for instance, soldiers from the Scottish Highlands wore tartan—what we in the United States call plaid. Various clans from the Highlands (a mountainous area in northwest Scotland) have their own unique tartans woven in specific colors and patterns.

### Dancing

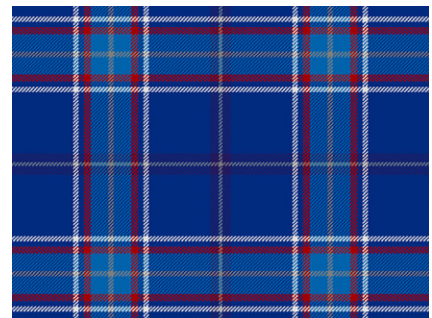
The Highland dance style comes from the mountainous Highlands region of northern Scotland. It is a technical form of dance requiring great strength and stamina. Modern Highland dancing developed out of earlier Scottish social dances like the reel, as well as martial dances with swords and other weapons that demonstrated the dancer's courage and agility. Highland dance students practice many hours each week and train for many years. The laced leather shoes Highland dancers wear are called ghillies.



Top: The U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps. Fort Meade, MD. Staff photo by Jen Rynda. Bottom: Fife, early 19th century. Metropolitan Museum of Art.

### Did You Know?

Following in the Scottish tradition, the Virginia International Tattoo has its own tartan. The tartan is called the Virginia International Tattoo Hixon Tartan in honor of longtime Virginia Arts Festival Board Member Jim Hixon. It was designed by Alistair Dunn of the Field Marshall Montgomery Pipe Band and woven in Scotland.



The tartan's dominant "Festival Blue" color represents the Virginia Arts Festival and pays tribute to those who bring the arts to life. The red, white, and blue threads woven throughout symbolize the tattoo's patriotic themes and performances, while the blue hues symbolize the Virginia flag and the seal of the city of Norfolk. The gray stripes guarding the red, white, and blue represent the massive ships and mighty jets of our nation's military, many located here in our area.

## A Salute to 250 Years of American Independence



Artistic depiction of the Declaration of Independence.  
Portrait of Thomas Jefferson by Charles Willson Peale.

This Tattoo honors the 250th anniversary of the 1776 signing of the Declaration of Independence during the American Revolution—the moment we think of as the birth of the United States of America.

By the time the Second Continental Congress of colonial delegates adopted the Declaration of Independence, war had been ongoing for over a year between American colonists and the British Army. Despite actively taking military steps against Britain, the Congress had also tried to reach a peaceful resolution to the conflict, sending King George III the Olive Branch Petition in July 1775. Receiving news of ongoing hostilities, King George III refused to receive the petition and declared the colonies to be in “open and avowed rebellion.”

On June 7th, 1776, Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee proposed the Congress resolve that “these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states...” Congress assigned five delegates to write this resolution, including John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson was the one who penned the original draft of the Declaration of Independence, revising it with the others.

Source: Adapted from “The Road to Independence,” National Park Service,  
<https://www.nps.gov/inde/learn/historyculture/stories-theroadtoindependence.htm>

On July 2nd, the Congress voted to adopt the resolution for independence, officially declaring the United States an independent state in the eyes of the patriots. But they weren’t done with Jefferson’s document, which was heavily revised over the next couple of days. Another vote on July 4th confirmed the wording of the Declaration, which could then be printed, distributed, and read aloud to the public. Finally, on August 2nd, 1776, the final version of the Declaration was signed by fifty delegates from thirteen colonies (now states in the new United States). Six more signed over the course of the next year and a half.



The people who signed the Declaration of Independence risked their lives, because they could be executed for treason by the British government. The

first printed version of the Declaration that was circulated in 1776 only had John Hancock’s name on it (as he was the president of the Second Continental Congress), with Charles Thomson, the Congress’ secretary, listed as witnessing the document’s authenticity. It was not until early 1777 that the names of all the signatories were released publicly in another printing.

### : Weird Words

- : Another way to say 250th anniversary is
- : *semiquincentennial*. Whew, that’s a mouthful! Like many
- : other words in English, semiquincentennial comes from
- : Latin roots. “Semi-” means “half” (like in “semicircle”),
- : “quin-” means “five” (for example, a “quintet” is a group
- : of five musicians who perform together), and “cent-”
- : means “hundred” (as in “century” for one hundred
- : years). The ending “-ennial” means it has to do with
- : years, like in the word “perennial” (recurring every year).
- : So altogether, you get half-of-five-hundred-years: 250!

# What Did the Declaration Say?

The Declaration of Independence starts by proclaiming that the thirteen “united States of America” unanimously declare they sever their connection to the British Empire and will explain their causes for doing so. It includes a powerful argument for universal human rights:

***We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.***

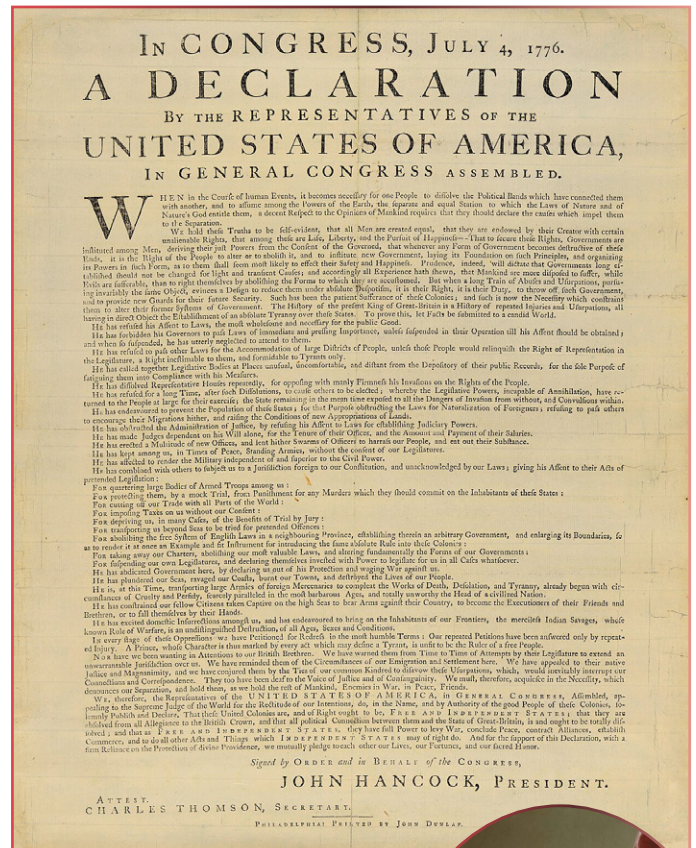
After this famous line, the Declaration goes on to say that governments are established to protect people's human rights, and when they don't, the people being governed have the right to make change:

***—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, —That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.***

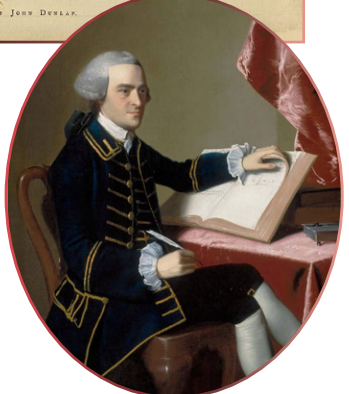
However, Jefferson and the other delegates did not want to be seen to be changing their government “for light and transient causes”, so they went on to list their grievances against the British king, in order to demonstrate to the world what they saw as the necessity of American independence. The list of the King's abuses is the longest portion of the Declaration. Many focused on bad government and the suppression of colonists' practices of representative democracy:

***He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.***

***He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.***



First printing of the Declaration, with only John Hancock's name. Portrait of John Hancock by John Singleton Copley.



- Read the full text of the Declaration of Independence
- for yourself at the National Archives' website!
- <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>

***He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.***

***He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.***

Other grievances were about military oppression:

***He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.***

***He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.***

The Declaration described many of the Coercive Acts the British Parliament had passed in 1774, which the colonists had termed the Intolerable Acts, including blockading trade in Boston, quartering (housing) British troops at the colonists' expense, and effectively eliminating representative government and fair trials in Massachusetts.

The Declaration's final grievance focused on the threats Congress perceived from enslaved people, who they referred to vaguely, and Indigenous people, who they characterized with extremely negative stereotypes, accusing them of being brutal "savages". In 1763, the British had attempted to restrict colonists' settlement west of the Appalachian mountains, a move colonists deeply resented. Colonists imagined that Britain was plotting with Indigenous nations against their interests. They also accused the King of inciting enslaved people to rebellion ("domestic insurrections") since the British governor of Virginia, Lord Dunmore, had offered freedom to enslaved people who escaped patriot slaveholders to fight on the British side:

***He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.***

While this gives us insight into the worldview and political goals of Jefferson and the other delegates, it's worth keeping in mind that the actual events of the Revolution were often contradictory. As the conflict progressed,

Indigenous people as well as free and formerly enslaved Black people fought on both sides of the American War of Independence.

Lastly, the Declaration protested that the colonists had tried to be patient and to petition the British government peacefully for change. Colonists saw themselves as connected to the British by "the ties of our common kindred." However, since the King and Parliament did not respond to their appeals, the colonists declared:

***That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.***

## • What Do You Think?

### • **Revising and Rewriting the Declaration**

• The Second Continental Congress edited and re-edited the text of Jefferson's Declaration until it was something the vast majority of the delegates could agree to sign. 86 edits were made altogether from the first draft to the final signed version, with whole sections being removed. These quotes are from the final version of the document. For example, despite himself being a slaveholder, Jefferson had initially included a paragraph in his Declaration blaming the King for instituting and maintaining the slave trade, which he saw as a moral evil. Congress removed this section from the final version of the Declaration, much to Jefferson's frustration.

• If you were at the Second Continental Congress in 1776, what revisions would you have proposed to the Declaration of Independence?

## • Research & Reflect:

### • The Declaration's Rallying Cry

• Jefferson's powerful words about "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" made an important contribution to developing ideas about universal human rights in the eighteenth century. Since then, many people in different political contexts around the world have drawn on the wording and ideas of the United States' Declaration of Independence. For example, in 1848, the women's suffrage movement in the United States declared (adding to the Declaration's phrase) that "all men and women are created equal." In 1852, Frederick Douglass' famous "Fourth of July" speech called on his fellow Americans to live up to the human rights promises of the Declaration of Independence and reject the hypocrisy of maintaining slavery. In 1945, Vietnamese Communist leader Ho Chi Minh invoked the Declaration of Independence when declaring Vietnam's independence from France.

• Research the legacy of the Declaration of Independence and pick one of the moments when it has been referenced throughout history. In that moment, who is talking about the Declaration or repeating a phrase from it? What is their goal and the broader context?

### Learn more about the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence!

Educational Resources from VA250, <https://va250.org/educational-resources>

Resources for Students & Educators, Museum of the American Revolution, <https://www.amrevmuseum.org/learn-and-explore/for-students-and-educators>

Classroom Resources, American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, <https://www.jyfmuseums.org/learn/teacher-resources-programs/classroom-resources>

"The Coming of the American Revolution: 1764 to 1776," Massachusetts Historical Society, <https://www.masshist.org/revolution/index.php>

"The American Revolution – A Documentary History," [https://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject\\_menus/amerrev.asp](https://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/amerrev.asp)

"American Revolution Facts," American Battlefield Trust, <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/american-revolution-faqs>

Timeline of the American Revolution, Museum of the American Revolution, <https://timeline.amrevmuseum.org/sections#section-war-and-independence>

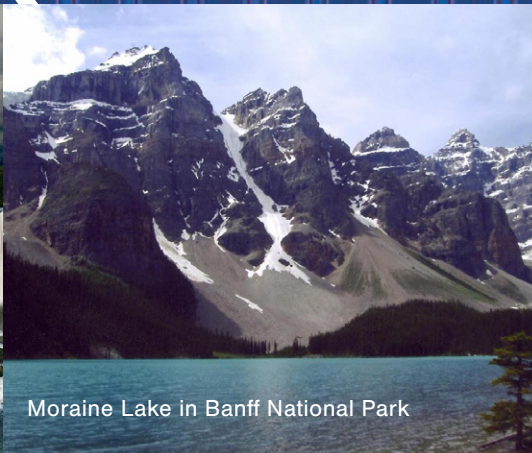
"A Nation's Story: 'What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?'" The Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History & Culture, <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/nations-story-what-slave-fourth-july>

The Declaration's Journey (Exhibit at the Museum of the American Revolution), <https://www.amrevmuseum.org/about-the-declaration-s-journey>

The Declaration of Independence Through Time, National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/inde/learn/historyculture/-stories-declarationthruetime.htm>



Niagara Falls  
Dmitri Markine



Moraine Lake in Banff National Park



Beaver  
D. Gordon E. Robertson

**SPOTLIGHT ON**  
**Canada**

**CAPITAL:** Ottawa  
**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:** English and French



With a third of its land located within the Arctic Circle, it's no wonder Canada's often referred to as the Great White North! Those arctic regions stay frozen for up to nine months a year, so most Canadians live near the country's border with the United States, where the climate is milder. And that border? At 5,525 miles, it's the longest international boundary in the world.

Canada is a vast country—the second largest on the globe—with areas of rugged mountains, forested valleys, and rolling plains. Many native Canadians, or First Nations people, live in the icy north. They hunt and fish amid the glaciers, just as their ancestors did when they arrived in North America from Asia many thousands of years ago.

Half of Canada is covered with forests. Forest wildlife includes bear, deer, wolves, moose, and beavers, the country's official animal. Arctic creatures such as caribou, polar bears, and seals live in the frozen north. There are thousands of lakes in Canada, which, along with the country's rivers, glaciers, and underground aquifers, contain almost 20 percent of all fresh water on the planet. Niagara Falls, the most powerful waterfall in North America and a popular tourist attraction, is shared by both Canada and the United States.

The first non-Native to reach Canada was Viking explorer Leif Eriksson around 1000 CE. British and French settlers arrived in the 1500s, but disagreements between fur traders and farmers resulted in a series of wars between 1689 and 1763. The British kept control of Canada after the last of these conflicts, the French and Indian War, but French cultural influence remains. Canada became an independent nation in 1931, though it still recognizes the British monarch as its head of state.

Canada is made up of ten provinces and three territories. Canada's population is diverse, including First Nations peoples and descendants of the British and French settlers, plus other immigrants from around the world. Though Canada is slightly larger than the United States, it has only 11 percent as many people. It is one of the least densely populated countries in the world.

The distinctive maple leaf on the Canadian flag is a time-honored symbol of the country's heritage. Long before the first European settlers arrived, Canada's Native peoples discovered that maple sap could be used as food. The maple leaf became a Canadian symbol in the nineteenth century, appearing in newspapers, on official emblems and currency, and even in song. The red maple leaf design became the official flag of Canada in 1965.

Another well-known Canadian symbol is the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The Mounties are Canada's national police force. Established in 1873 to keep law and order in the country's northwest, the Mounties rode horseback in their bright red dress uniforms. Today, the Mounties patrol in vehicles and generally show off their horse-riding skills only for public exhibitions.

### Did You Know?

- A body of water in the Canadian province of Manitoba is called Pekwachnamaykoskwawpinwanik Lake. Try sounding that out! The name is Cree for “where the wild trout are caught by fishing with hooks.”
- Drumheller Valley in the province of Alberta is home to many dinosaur fossils, earning the nickname “Dinosaur Capital of the World.”
- Canada's province of Quebec produces most of the world's maple syrup. Pancakes, anyone?



Sugar making



Maple Syrup

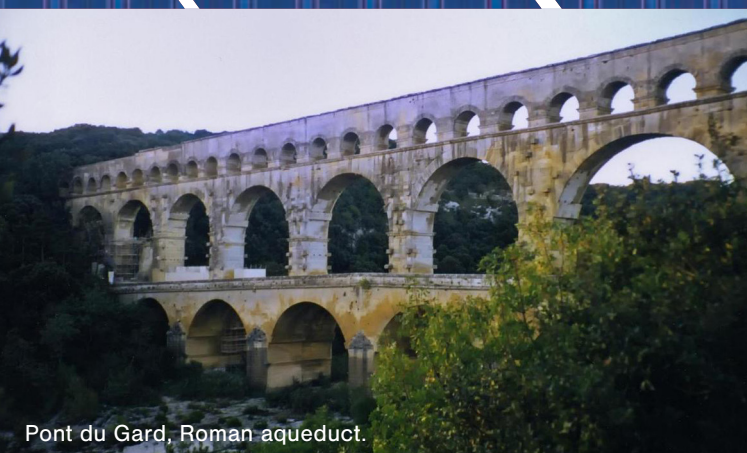


Mounites



Canada Place in downtown Vancouver

**Learn more at:** National Geographic Kids  
[www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/canada](http://www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/canada)



Pont du Gard, Roman aqueduct.



Napoleon



Le Louvre



Eiffel Tower

**SPOTLIGHT ON**

**France**

**CAPITAL:** Paris

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:** French



Incredible art, delicious cheese, fine wine, fancy perfume, high fashion—the world has France to thank for these things and more! France has made rich contributions in the areas of politics, philosophy, the fine arts, film, literature, cuisine, and sports.

France is the largest country in Western Europe. It's often described as having six sides, like a hexagon: three of the sides are coastlines, while three border land. In French, France is often called L'Hexagone because of its shape. France's varied landscape includes beaches, like those of the French Riviera on the Mediterranean Sea; mountains, such as the Pyrenees and Alps; and picturesque rivers, like the Seine, Rhone, and Loire.

The French capital of Paris, also known as the City of Light, is home to the country's most recognizable landmark, the Eiffel Tower. Gustave Eiffel designed and built the iron tower in 1889 for the World's Fair; it still stands today, eighty stories tall! Many important museums are located in Paris, like the Louvre, which houses the Mona Lisa, the most famous painting in the world. Works by French artists Monet, Cézanne, and Renoir can also be found at the Louvre.

French cooking is considered by many to be one of the best in the world. Perhaps you've tried some of these French culinary creations: quiche, crepes, croissants, mousse, soufflé, and the long loaves of bread known as baguettes. Le Cordon Bleu, a prestigious school devoted to the culinary arts (cooking), was founded in Paris in 1895.

France was not always called France. When the Roman Empire conquered the territory in stages, concluding with emperor Julius Caesar's conquests from 58 to 50 BCE, it was known as Gaul. By 400 CE the Roman Empire was in decline, and neighboring tribes, including the Franks, invaded. Frankish monarchs eventually came to control all of Gaul, leading to the Latin name "Francia" being given to their lands—the origin of our word for France.

For centuries, France was ruled by kings, served by nobles who also wielded a great deal of political power. During the French Revolution, the monarchy was overthrown (in 1792, three years after the revolution began in 1789). The French Revolution caused political aftershocks across Europe, and some historians consider it to mark the beginning of the modern age. Unfortunately, its new democratic government proved unstable. Not long after, Napoleon Bonaparte, a general during the

revolution, seized control and declared himself emperor. He waged several wars against France's neighbors until he was famously defeated in 1815 at the Battle of Waterloo.

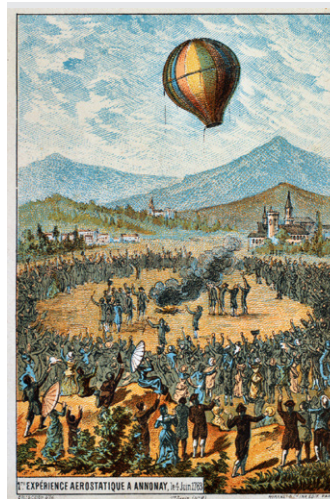
In the 1600s, France established colonies in the Americas, including the modern country of Haiti, other Caribbean islands, and parts of Canada and Louisiana, where French cultural influence remains today. However, by the beginning of the nineteenth century, France had lost or ceded the majority of its empire in the Americas. In the 1800s and 1900s, France seized control of much territory across West Africa, North Africa, and Southeast Asia, including modern-day Algeria, Senegal, and Vietnam, among other nations. Struggles for decolonization resulted in most of these colonies winning their independence by the 1960s.

During World Wars I and II, France suffered great losses. In World War II, France was defeated and occupied by Nazi Germany. A remnant of France's government collaborated with the Nazis, while many ordinary people resisted, creating underground networks to sabotage the occupiers and help the Allies. The country was liberated in 1944 by a joint effort of the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada, beginning with the famous D-Day landing of Allied troops in Normandy in northern France. France has since emerged as a prosperous and important world power and a popular tourist destination. Today more people visit France than any other country in the world!



## Did You Know?

- Up, up, and away! Famous French inventions include the modern hot air balloon and parachute.
- The Eiffel Tower was intended to be torn down within twenty years of its construction for the 1889 World's Fair. It was allowed to stand because of its use as a wireless telegraph transmitter, and has since become the very symbol of France. The tower is repainted every seven years—with sixty metric tons of paint!
- The French were the first to use military camouflage, in 1915 during World War I. The word comes from the French verb *camoufler*, meaning “to disguise.” Guns and vehicles were painted by artists called *camoufleurs*.
- Our modern political terms “right wing” and “left wing” come from the places people sat in the National Assembly established during the French Revolution in 1789. Those seated on the right side of the assembly's president wanted to maintain more of the king's power and preexisting traditions, whereas those seated on the left side wanted more radical change.



Balloon



Parachute

Learn more at: National Geographic Kids

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/france>



Hongdo Island. justinj.



Seoul. Stéphan Valentin.



Daejeon Uam Historic Park. Jo.

**SPOTLIGHT ON**

# Republic of Korea

**CAPITAL:** Seoul

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:** Korean



The Korean Peninsula in eastern Asia is divided into north and south. Republic of Korea is the official name of South Korea. South Korea is a modern, vibrant country that cherishes its traditional culture. It's home to mountains, forests, and jungles, as well as bustling metropolitan cities.

Korea wasn't always split into north and south. Asian settlers developed early Korean civilization from before 3000 BCE. Different kingdoms eventually formed on the Korean peninsula. Through the centuries, the area that is now Korea faced political pressure and military invasion from several groups, including the Chinese, Mongols, and Japanese. In the late 1800s and 1900s China and then Russia tried to establish their dominance in Korea but were fought off by Japan, who secured the most influence on the peninsula. In 1905, Japan forced the Korean emperor to make Korea a Japanese protectorate state. Japan later formally annexed Korea, making it part of the Japanese empire and suppressing Korean language and culture. Koreans especially suffered under Japanese imperial rule during World War II.

When Japan lost World War II, Korea was divided into two parts along the 38th parallel – the circle of latitude at 38° N. The Soviet Union took control of the area north

of the line; the United States took control of the south. The division was initially supposed to be temporary, but it remains today, with North Korea existing as a separate country under communist rule.

In 1950 North Korea invaded South Korea, which resulted in the Korean War, the first major conflict of the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States of America. With the help of assembled forces from the United Nations, the US-friendly South Korean government defended itself against takeover. Now there's a two-mile demilitarized zone, or "no man's land," between the two countries at the 38th parallel.

South Korea is a beautiful country with four distinct seasons, like the United States. It's very densely populated, with lots of people—more than 48 million—living close together, especially in the cities. South Korean culture has also historically been influenced by Buddhism, Christianity, and the Chinese philosophy of Confucianism, which emphasizes respect for parents and morality.

South Korea's economy is one of the strongest in Eastern Asia. It manufactures and exports ships and cars, computers, cell phones, TVs, and other electronics.

You're probably familiar with another of its exports, "K-pop," or Korean pop music. PSY (of "Gangnam Style" fame) and the band BTS are just a couple of the many famous K-pop artists. More recently, the movie *KPop Demon Hunters* has taken over the streaming waves in many English-speaking countries, becoming the most-watched original title in Netflix history with over 500 million views. Korean food is enjoying growing popularity abroad, too, with dishes like bibimbap (a kind of rice bowl) and Korean barbeque. And if you've ever tasted a spicy pickled cabbage dish called kimchi, you have Koreans to thank!



**Learn more at:** National Geographic Kids  
<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/south-korea>

## Did You Know?

- South Korea's Boryeong Mud Festival is an annual ten-day celebration of—you guessed it—mud! Revelers enjoy mud wrestling, mud marathons, and mud photo contests.
- Hierarchy and age are very important in South Korean culture. It's generally considered rude to call someone older than you by their first name. When being introduced to a new person, one of the first questions South Koreans ask is "How old are you?" so they can use the appropriate terms of address!
- South Koreans are so fond of the sweet potato, they use it to flavor chips, cake, ice cream, and even lattes.



Mud Fest. Hypnotica Studios Infinite.



Seoul, Mathew Schwartz



Stonehenge - Garethwiscombe



Queen Victoria



Changing of the guard - Bortescristian

**SPOTLIGHT ON**

# United Kingdom

**CAPITAL:** London

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:** English



From Stonehenge to Buckingham Palace, the United Kingdom is known for its rich history and royal heritage. Located off the northwestern coast of Europe, the United Kingdom consists of four parts: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. England, Scotland, and Wales make up an island called Great Britain; Northern Ireland sits at the north of the island of Ireland, to the west of Great Britain. (Though Ireland and Northern Ireland comprise one large island, Ireland is actually its own independent country and Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom.)

It's believed that people first came to Britain in the Stone Age via a land bridge that once joined the island to Europe. When melting ice raised the sea level thousands of years ago, Britain became a separate island. Around 2500 BCE one of the UK's most famous landmarks was built: Stonehenge. This stone monument of giant columns and crosspieces was constructed even before the wheel had been invented. People likely used logs as rollers or sleds to transport the heavy stones. Scientists are still not sure exactly why the mysterious Stonehenge was created, but we know that the center stones perfectly frame the sunset on the winter solstice and the sunrise on the summer solstice. Without any modern technology, Stonehenge's builders observed the movements of the sun with incredible precision.

Around 500 BCE, the Celtic people arrived in Britain from Europe, followed by the Romans who began to conquer British territory in 43 CE. The Romans ruled for nearly four hundred years. They built forts, roads, and bathhouses, the ruins of which can still be seen today all over Britain. Many words in the English language come from the Latin language of the Romans. You may have studied some Latin root words in school.

Around 500 BCE, Germanic tribes called the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes came to Britain. The name "England" comes from the Angles; English people became known as Anglo-Saxons. In 1066 CE, William the Conqueror, the Duke of Normandy (a French-speaking region of northwestern Europe) invaded England and started a new royal line and Norman noble culture. Because of this, many English words have French origins. Throughout England's history, kings and queens have come from different family lines. In 1485, Henry Tudor became king, the first of five Tudors to claim the crown. You might have heard of his son, the infamous Henry VIII!

In the 1600s, Britain began to establish colonies in North America and the Caribbean. During the reign of Queen Victoria (1837–1901), Britain became one of the most powerful and wealthy nations in the world, thanks to trade

and a growing overseas empire that encompassed today's India and Pakistan along with many other territories. Most of Britain's colonies gained their independence after the two World Wars. Many people from former British colonies in the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia have migrated to the UK, creating the diverse British population of today.

It was under Queen Victoria's rule that Buckingham Palace in London became the official residence and workplace of the British monarchy. The changing of the guard ceremony at Buckingham Palace is a favorite tourist attraction. Dressed in traditional red coats and tall, black bearskin hats, a group of soldiers—the Queen's Guard—stationed at the royal residence exchanges duties with another set of soldiers.

Many great names in literature come from the United Kingdom, including playwright William Shakespeare, poet Robert Burns, novelist Charles Dickens, and children's writer Roald Dahl. You may have also heard of British author J. K. Rowling, who wrote a series of books about a boy wizard named Harry Potter!

### Did You Know?

- Do you play soccer? Modern soccer was invented in the United Kingdom, where it's called football. Other popular sports—including rugby (similar to American football), cricket (similar to baseball), modern boxing, and golf—also got their start in the UK.
- The British enjoy their tea, as a nation drinking 165 million cups a day!
- The tune of "The Star Spangled Banner," the American national anthem, was composed by British organist John Stafford Smith. American lawyer Francis Scott Key set his poem about a battle he witnessed in the War of 1812 to Smith's melody. In 1931, "The Star Spangled Banner" became the official anthem of the United States by a congressional resolution.

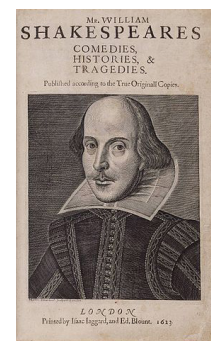
#### Learn more at:

National Geographic Kids

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/united-kingdom>

English Heritage: Stonehenge

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/stonehenge/history-and-stories/understanding-stonehenge>



## Resources

### Virginia Standards of Learning

**History and Social Science:** Skills K-3, VS, USI, WG, VUS; K.3; 1.1, 3; 2.4; VS.5; USI.6; WG.1, 14; GOVT.4

**World Language:** 1.NL; 1.NM; 1.NH; 2.NL; 2.NM; 2.NH; 4.NL; 4.NM; 4.NH; 9.NL; 9.NM; 9.NH; 1.IL; 1.IM; 1.IH; 9.IL; 9.IM; 9.IH; HL1.1.NM; HL1.1.IM; DL1.2.NL

**Dance:** : K.1, 3, 5-8, 11, 15, 18; 1.3-6, 11, 18; 2.3-6, 11, 18; 3.3-6; 4.3, 6; 5.3-7; 6.3-7, 11, 15; 7.3-7, 11, 16; 8.3-6, 16; DI.3-6; DII.3-4, 6; DIII.3-4, 6; DIV.3, 6

**Music:** K.3-7, 9, 11; 1.3-7, 9; 2.3-7, 9; 3.3, 5-7; 4.3-7; 5.3-7; EI.3-7, 10-11; 6.3-7, 10-11; 7.3-6, 11; 8.3-6; MIB.3-7, 10-11; MII.3-6, 11; MIAD.3-6; MCB.3-7, 11; MCI.3-6, 11; MCAD.3-6; HM.3-6, 11; HMT.3-6, 11; HIB.3-6, 11; HII.3-6; HIAD.3-6; HIAR.3-6; HCB.3-6, 11; HCI.3-6; HCAD.3-6; HCAR.3-6



## feedback form

We need your feedback to make our Education Programs even better! Please take a moment to complete this form and either return it to the Virginia Arts Festival office at 440 Bank Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, fax it to (757) 605-3080, or e-mail your answers to [education@vafest.org](mailto:education@vafest.org).

Event: \_\_\_\_\_

How did your students respond to the performance?

How did you prepare your students for this performance? Did you use the Education Guide? If so, how?  
Did students enjoy the materials?

How did this performance contribute to experiential learning in your classroom?

What role do the arts play in your school? In your classroom?

If you could change one thing about this experience, what would it be?

Please include quotes and comments from your students as well!

(Optional)

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

School: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be part of our database?  Yes  No