

1 Read the text and choose the correct word.

The Birth of the UNITED STATES

Thirteen Colonies and British Rule

Great Britain ruled the thirteen colonies in North America before they declared their independence. Between 1607 to 1732 the British had **1) founded/discovered** the colonies and as they grew, the people living there did not like the way they were being **2) managed/governed** by the British. The colonists had to follow their laws and they couldn't do anything to change them or to make new laws of their own.

In April of 1775, the Revolutionary War began between the colonists and Great Britain. Fighting did not **3) solve/determine** the colonists' problems, so they decided that they would **4) claim/want** their independence through writing. The colonists believed that by writing an official declaration of independence they would be able to **5) notify/express** their reasons in a formal way as to why they should be an independent country.

Thomas Jefferson **6) arrived/began** to write the Declaration of Independence and all 13 congressmen from the colonies agreed with the demands of a new independent country. The British government however, **7) declined/disapproved** their request. After making many changes to the document, it became finalised on July 4, 1776 which is **8) acknowledged/considered** the birth of the United States of America.

The 4th of July is Independence Day in the United States of America. Many celebrations take **9) place/part** across the entire country to remember the importance of this day. Parades, fireworks, and family gatherings with barbecues are just some ways people celebrate their country's independence.

2 Look at the facts below related to the 4th of July. Fill in the blanks with these words.

• officially • symbol

Did you know...?

In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania there is the Liberty Bell which has become the international **1) _____** of freedom. The Liberty Bell first rang in July of 1776 when the Declaration of Independence was **2) _____** signed.



3 **ICT** In groups, find out more interesting facts about Independence Day in the United States. Present your findings to the class.

