

## Sweet Traditions and Fireworks: S'mores and the Fourth of July

Every summer, on the fourth of July, cities and small towns across the United States come alive with parades, concerts, and **dazzling** firework displays. This day marks the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, when thirteen American colonies officially broke free from British rule. It is a moment of deep national pride, a celebration of freedom and identity — and like most celebrations, it comes with its own traditions, flavors, and rituals.

One of the most beloved culinary traditions of the American summer — especially around Independence Day — is the s'more. Strange as the name may sound, it's simply a delicious sandwich made of a roasted marshmallow and a piece of chocolate, squished between two graham **crackers**. The name itself is a contraction of the phrase "some more," because once you've had one, you'll most likely want... well, some more.

Although the exact origins of the s'more are unclear, the first recorded recipe appeared in a 1927 Girl Scouts handbook, suggesting the treat had already become a **staple** of American campfires. Since then, s'mores have come to symbolize more than just a sweet snack. They're a reminder of childhood summers, late-night conversations around bonfires, and the simple joy of spending time outdoors.

On the Fourth of July, families and friends gather for barbecues, picnics, and backyard parties. As the sky darkens and the fireworks begin, it's common for people to sit by a **fire pit**, roasting marshmallows on sticks and assembling s'mores with sticky fingers and lots of laughter. For many, it's the perfect way to end a day filled with flags, music, and red-white-and-blue pride.

Ultimately, both s'mores and the Independence Day celebration reflect something essential about American culture: the love of community, freedom, and the comfort of shared traditions — especially the sweet ones.

### ACTIVITY 1: Find the following words in the dictionary

- DAZZLING: .....
- CRACKERS: .....
- STAPLE: .....
- FIRE PIT: .....

### ACTIVITY 2: Answer the following questions

- What is the meaning behind the word s'mores?
- Where was the first record of the s'more recipe found?
- What is the connection between Independence Day and doing s'mores?
- Why is the year 1776 important in the US culture?