

Five Questions for the Fourth

Honest conversation starters for families, curious kids, and anyone who thinks the story is bigger than the fireworks.

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1 **Ask someone older than you what July 4th meant when they were a kid.**

Not what it was supposed to mean. What it actually was. A parade. A specific food. A boring day. A favorite day. Then compare it to what the holiday looks like now.

2 **What does freedom mean to you, right now?**

Not the textbook definition. Not a political answer. In your own words: what it gives you, what it costs you, what you'd hate to lose. There's no right answer. Just your honest one.

3 **What's something about America you're proud of?**

A place. A person. A tradition. A value. A second chance. A simple everyday freedom. Name it, and say it out loud this weekend.

4 **What parts of America's story do you never see told on July 4th?**

Who gets left out? Whose struggles get ignored? Which heroes are forgotten? What truths get softened? Ask your family what they'd add.

5 **Choose one thing you hope Americans still celebrate 250 years from now.**

A freedom. A tradition. An idea. A song. A food. Or a way people treat each other. Why would you want it to last?

Four More, for the Rest of the Weekend

Same rules. No right answers, no scripts.

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6 If you could visit one moment in American history for ten minutes, where would you go?

Not to change it. Just to see it for yourself.

7 If you had to explain America to someone who had never heard of it, what's the first thing you'd tell them?

Not the official version. The first true thing that comes to mind.

8 What's one law or rule in America that you think future generations will find strange?

Every era has one. What's ours?

9 Name a place in America you've never been but you're curious about.

It doesn't have to be famous. Just real to you.

This guide starts the conversation. The book opens the story.

America 250: What Makes America America

101 real answers to big questions about the country

The Honest Book of Whys • by Billie Alexander

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Ask these questions at your table, then pass them along. Share one answer with #HonestBookOfWhys