

Independence Day

It's Fourth of July weekend which means it is time for the beach, BBQs, and fun times with friends and family. In America, we celebrate this holiday because of our freedom from the British, but was it really freedom for all? Today we'll examine what freedom really means. Enjoy having these conversations with your kids!

General Questions/Comments About Freedom:

- 1. What does it mean when a country is free? What does that mean for each citizen?*
- 2. Do you think 4th of July is an appropriate time to celebrate Independence Day? Why or why not? Should there be other freedom celebrations as well?*
- 3. What does 'created equal' mean? Are we all? Are there other groups (besides those listed below) that are not always treated as equals? What can/should be done about that?*

Questions/Comments About Women & Freedom:

- 1. When do you think women were truly free? When they were able to hold property? When they were able to vote? Not yet?*
- 2. How do you think women not having the same rights as men has influenced American culture?*
- 3. There is a Women's Equality Day. Find out more about it & discuss.*

Questions/Comments About Black People & Freedom:

- 1. Was the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation truly when Black people became free in America? Why or why not? If not, when did that occur?*
- 2. There are several Freedom Days celebrated throughout the country (Juneteenth; Emancipation Day). Find out more about these celebrations - especially locally.*
- 3. Read a transcript of Frederick Douglass' speech on Independence Day together & discuss.*

