



# ND250 CLASSROOM BIRTHDAY PARTY TOOLKIT

## Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the United States, 1776-2026

### Teacher Overview

This classroom birthday party kit helps middle school students reflect on key moments in American history while celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States.

**Total Time:** 40-50 minutes

**Preparation:** Print the student activity pages.

Activities may be completed individually or in small groups.



## Activity 1: America 250 Timeline Challenge

Students place the following events in chronological order:

- Declaration of Independence - July 4, 1776
- North Dakota Statehood - November 2, 1889
- Civil War (start date) - April 12, 1861
- Women's Right to Vote - August 18, 1920
- Gettysburg Address - November 19, 1863
- Lewis & Clark Expedition (start date) - May 14, 1804
- First Telephone Call - March 10, 1876
- First Moon Landing - July 20, 1969
- International Peace Garden Opens on the North Dakota Border - July 14, 1932
- Bombing of Pearl Harbor - December 7, 1941
- Discovered Oil in North Dakota - April 4, 1951
- America 250 - July 4, 2026

### Follow-up question:

Which event do you wish you had experienced or which event do you think had the most impact on American history? Explain your answer.

## Activity 2: What Does Freedom Mean Today?

### Students respond to the prompt:

People in 1776 fought for independence.

What does freedom mean today and what freedoms are you happiest for?

Students write a short paragraph explaining their thoughts.

## Activity 3: America 250 Trivia

Teachers may use this as a class activity or group competition.

### Sample questions:

1. In what year was the Declaration of Independence signed?
2. How old will the United States be in 2026?
3. What is the capital of North Dakota?
4. What document begins with the words "We the People"?
5. What famous American symbol cracked and now hangs in Philadelphia?
6. How old will North Dakota be in 2026?
7. What did we call America's birthday celebration in 1976?
8. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?
9. Who were we declaring independence from?
10. Who were our founding fathers?



### Sample Answers:

1. 1776
2. 250 years old
3. Bismarck
4. The United States Constitution
5. The Liberty Bell
6. 137
7. The United States Bicentennial
8. Thomas Jefferson
9. Great Britain
10. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison

## Activity 4: Design a North Dakota America 250 Poster

Students create a poster celebrating both:

- The United States at 250 years
- North Dakota's role in the nation

Posters may include:

- State symbols
- Historical figures
- Important places in North Dakota

Teachers may display the posters in the classroom or hallway.

## Optional Classroom Celebration Ideas

Teachers may incorporate a simple classroom celebration.

Ideas include:

- **Founding Leaders Activity**  
Students select a historical American leader and briefly explain their contribution.
- **Patriotic Music Discussion**  
Students listen to songs connected to American history and discuss their meaning.
- **Design a Future American Symbol**  
Students design a symbol representing the next 250 years of the United States.
- **Optional Treat**  
If permitted, students decorate cupcakes with patriotic colors or “250” toppers.