



AMERICA 250 & THE IMPORTANCE OF BANKRUPTCY LAWS

**On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate
and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing
of the Declaration of Independence**

In honor of America's 250th anniversary

Bow High School

**Students created posters to highlight how bankruptcy laws
provide businesses and individuals with a “second chance”**

Bow Elementary School and Weare Middle School

**Students wrote an essay and/or drew a picture to illustrate
the importance of Bankruptcy in America**



CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
July 4, 2026

An Essay by: JACK [REDACTED]

In my opinion America 250 is important so I'm going to tell you why I think America's 250th birthday is important.

The first reason I think America's 250th birthday is important, because 250 years ago America became a country and some people want to know that.

The second reason I think America's 250th birthday is important, because if America didn't become a country then other countries would fight for the land.

The last reason I think America's 250th birthday is important, because if we didn't celebrate America's birthday then we wouldn't know when America became a country and some people want to know that.

those are all the reasons I think America 250.



CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
July 4, 2026

A Picture by: JACK





CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
July 4, 2026

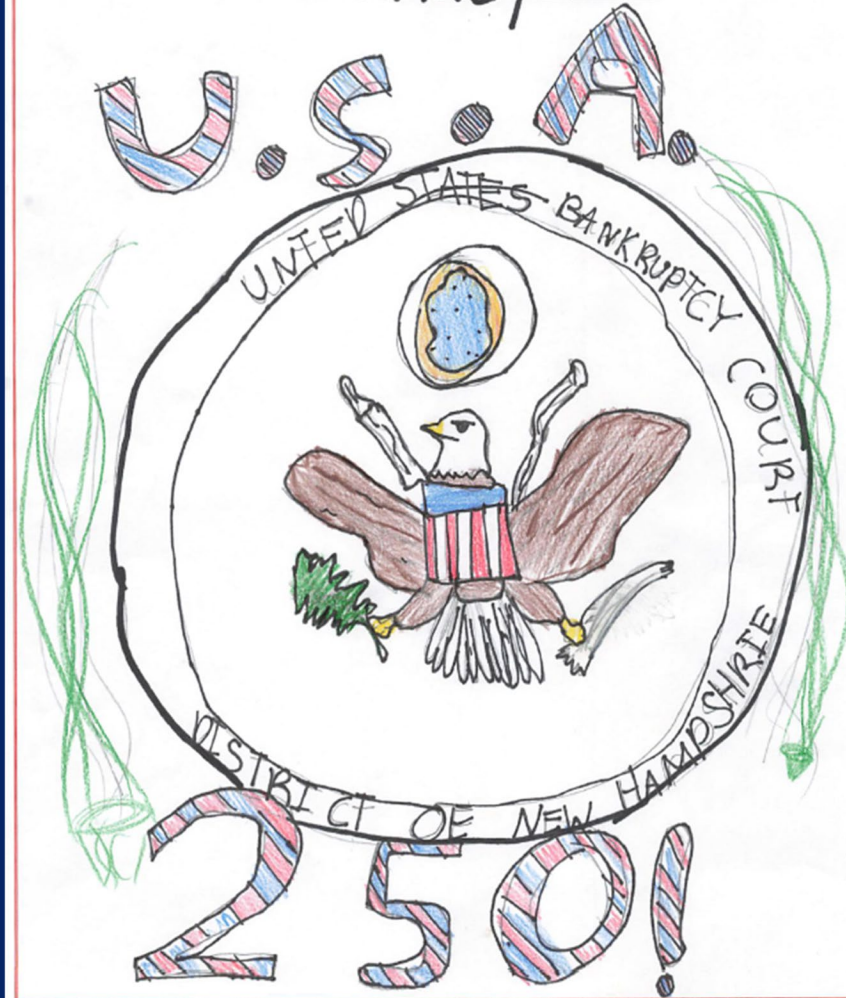
An Essay by: Riley. [redacted]

This year on July 4th is going to be America's 250th Anniversary. It all started on July 4th 1776. The 13 colonies declared independence before they were ruled by Great Britain. It's been 250 years now! You might think "oh it's just a birthday." Well it's way more than that and I'll tell you why it's not just a birthday. Like I said it all started on July 4th 1776 when the British surrendered and the 13 colonies declared independence and they made today a holiday! Then in late 1700-1800s they made a constitution also they ended West making America bigger! Then from 1861-1865 Slavery was banished because they won the war! Next in the 1900s the U.S. is now a world leader and we still fight for rights and peace! Lastly, today we are a diverse country, we still fight for rights and peace, also fairness. We have 50 states many different people. Now if that day didn't happen we would be way less bigger, freer, happier. That is why America 250 is important.



CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
July 4, 2026

A Picture by: Riley. [redacted]







CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
July 4, 2026

An Essay by: Madeleine [REDACTED]

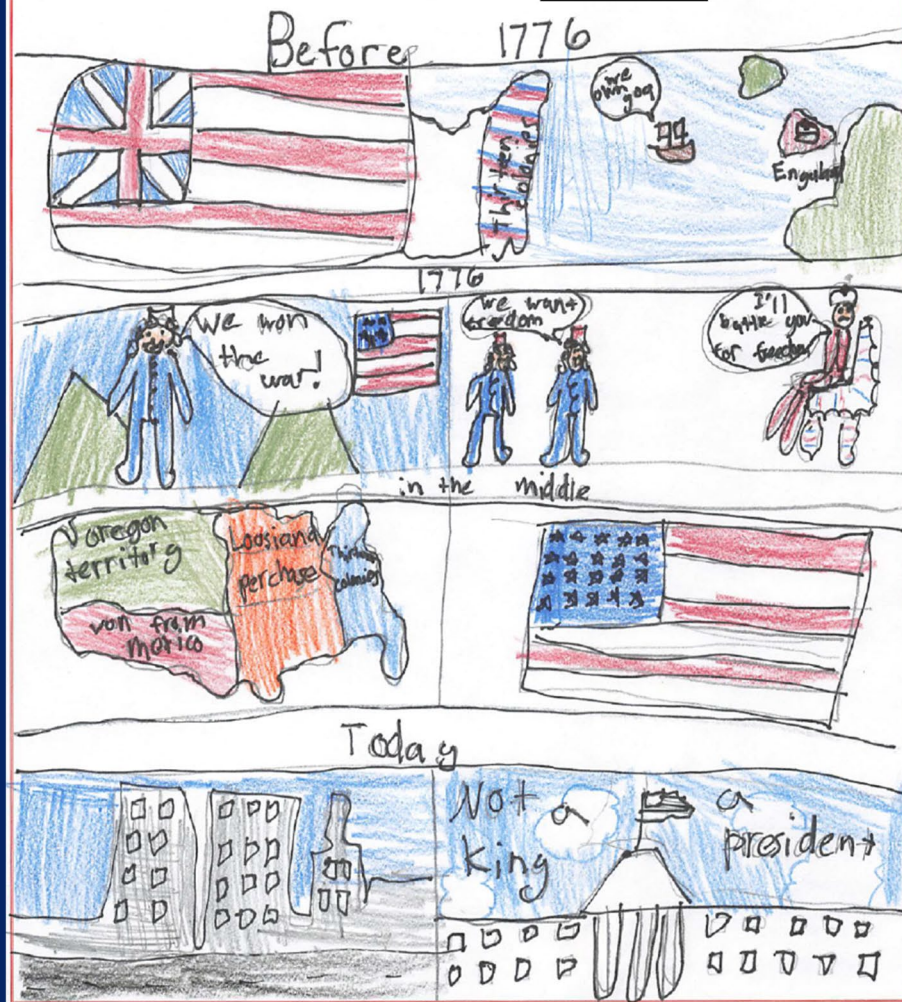
America's 250th birthday is important because without our Committee of Five, and all of the important events we would not be the same Country. The Committee of Five wrote and signed the Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman were the Committee of Five. In 1776 the Declaration of Independence was signed by the thirteen colonies. In 1775 the Revolutionary War started. It started with the battles of Lexington and Concord. Then in 1776 King George III of England signed the Declaration of Independence, declaring that America is an independent Country.

Like everything America isn't perfect. Right now all people can live together, but it wasn't always like that. In the late 1700s to 1800s America was expanding west. Soon a bunch of people were coming to America. Although no one was free. That started the Civil War. The Civil War was from 1861 to 1865. Even though that stopped slavery it still wasn't fair. Then there was the Civil Rights Movement. America today still isn't perfect, but we try. All that we have been through we can say that we live in a Country of fairness and freedom. So get your fireworks ready for America's 250 birthday.



CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
July 4, 2026

A Picture by: Madeleine [REDACTED]





CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
July 4, 2026

An Essay by:

Ruby [redacted]

In my opinion, America 250 is very good. I am going to tell you three reasons why it is good.

The first reason why it matters is because it is good to reflect on how the country started. Before the 1776, America was only 13 colonies that was ruled by Great Britain. It is good to reflect how it was back then and celebrate what America is now!

The second reason why I think America 250 matters is because we learn from history and look at the challenges and successes. When Great Britain ruled us, it was hard but now we are our own country. When we declared independence, that was one thing down, then civil war. The civil war was good because it freed the slaves.

The last reason why it is good is because we can make America even better by thinking on that day to make it amazing! A long time ago, America didn't have a lot of good things.

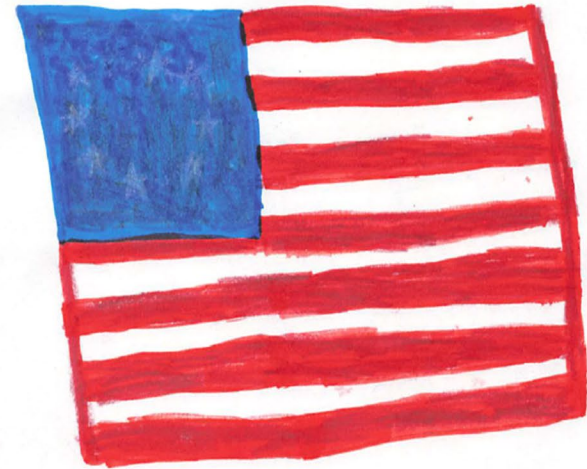
but now it is an amazing country because of doing the civil war and when we became our own country!



CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
July 4, 2026

A Picture by:

Ruby [redacted]





CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
July 4, 2026

An Essay by: Laurel [REDACTED]

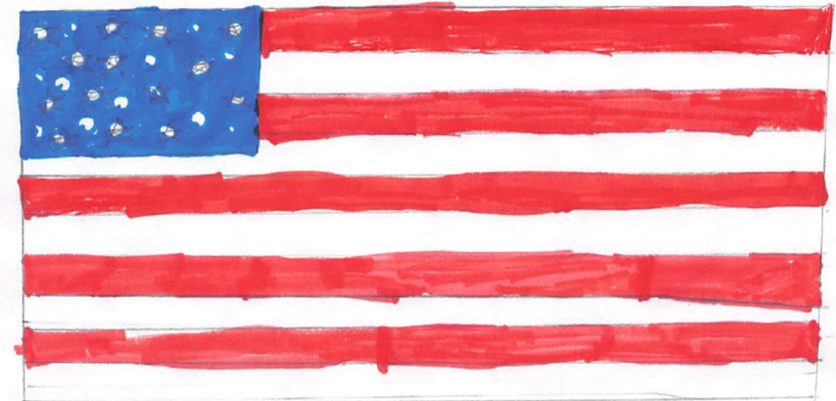
What is America 250? America 250 is America's birthday of the committee of 5. We celebrate this because we reflect on how the country began those 250 years ago. In the early 1776 the 13 colonies were ruled by King George III and America did not like it. In 1776 the 13 colonies wanted independence and to be ruled by them. By the late 1700s-1800s the country grew and people expanded west. In 1861-1865 America got tested for the civil war and ended slavery. In the 1900s U.S. was a world leader and fought for right. Now let's talk about today. Today we are still fighting for rights and a chance

Now you know what America 250 is!



CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
July 4, 2026

A Picture by: Laurel [REDACTED]



250!!



CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
July 4, 2026

An Essay by: Emma [redacted]

Did you know this year is America's 250th birthday? Today I will tell you what built America to where it is now! It is important to celebrate America's birthday because we live in America.

In 1776 America was made up of 13 colonies and ruled by Great Britain. Then the colonies declared independence and began a new country. That gives proof that people fought for our freedom and when we celebrate America's birthday we celebrate them too!

In the late 1700s-1865 the country grew, created a Constitution and expanded west and the Civil War tested the nation but helped end slavery. This helped America have no more slavery!

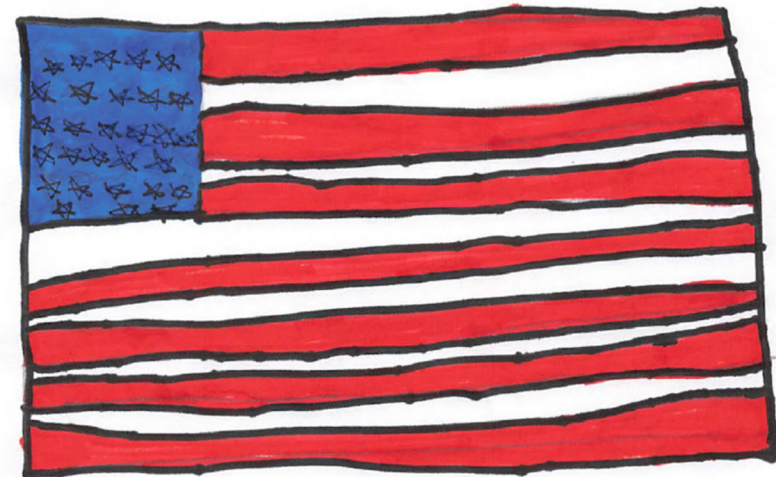
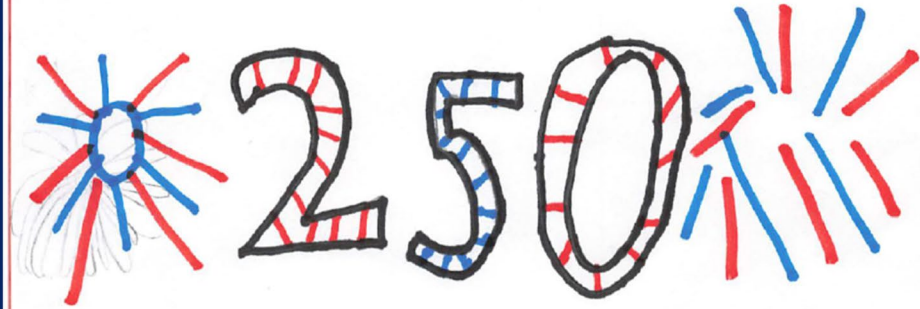
Lastly in the 1900s America becomes a world leader and works toward freedom. This is an amazing thing to celebrate. America will always fight for freedom and equality.

America now we have 50 states. We celebrate everybody who came before us! Thanks to past people there is no more slavery. America is a world leader and we are our own country. When we celebrate America we celebrate the people who came before us and the people who shaped America!



CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
July 4, 2026

A Picture by: Emma [redacted]





CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
July 4, 2026

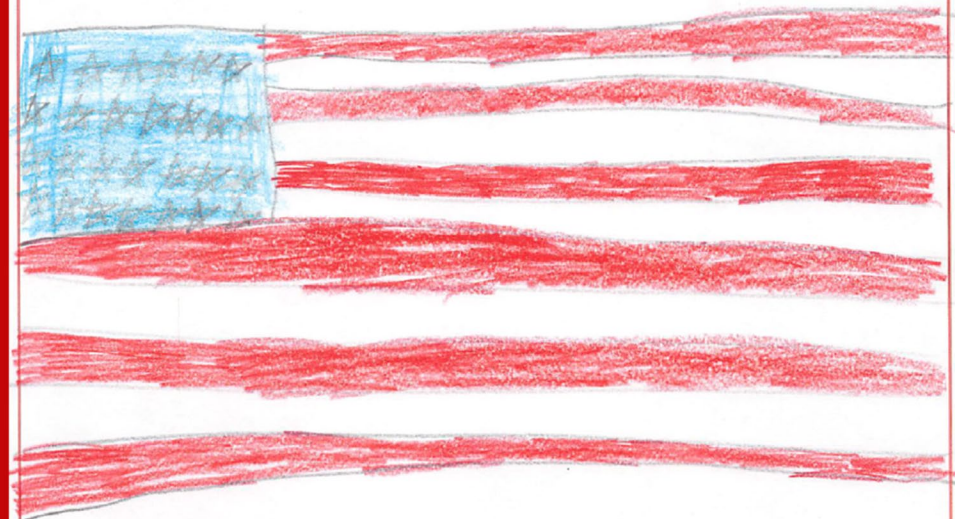
An Essay by: Henry [REDACTED]

This year is the 250 birthday of the United States of America. July fourth is when we celebrate when America became it's own country. Now I am going to tell you some facts about the United States of America. Number one is in 1776 America was made from 13 colonies and was ruled by Great Britain. Number two is in 1776 the colonies declared independence and a new country began. Number three is from 1805 America grew and made a Constitution and then America expanded west. Number four is 1861 to 1865 The Civil War tested the nation but The Civil War helped end Slavery. Number five is on the American flag it has 50 stars that represent the 50 States and has 13 stripes to represent the 13 colonies. Today the United States of America has 50 states and tons of different cultures. Now I am going to tell you why America is important. Number one is America provides for the world. Number two is in America we have freedom of speech in America you can also have freedom of religion and America abolish slavery.



CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
July 4, 2026

A Picture by: Henry [REDACTED]

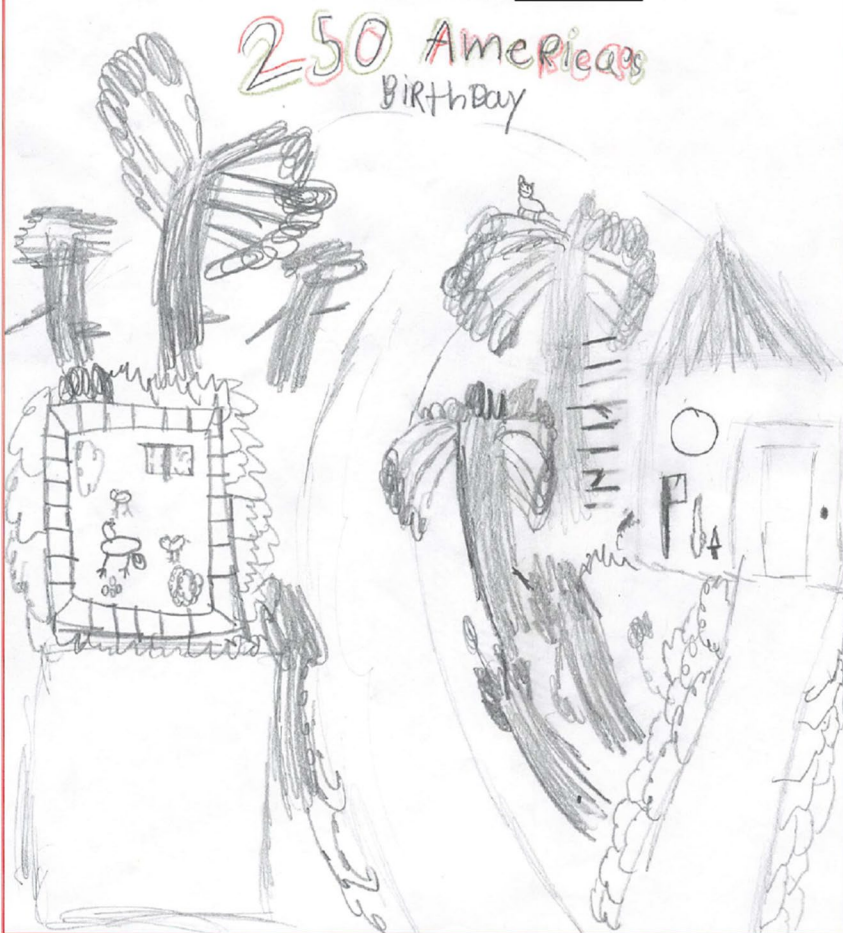


HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA



CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
July 4, 2026

A Picture by: Cameron [REDACTED]



250 Americas
BirthDay





CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
July 4, 2026

A Picture by: Fred [REDACTED]



CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
July 4, 2026

A Picture by: Nathan

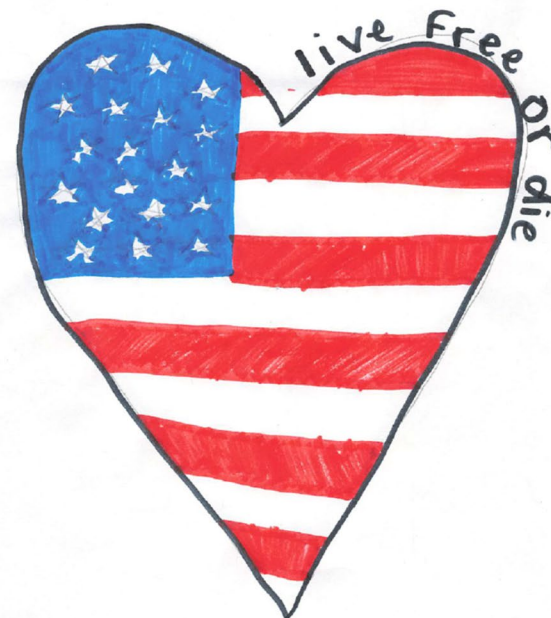
250

god bless
america!



CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
July 4, 2026

A Picture by: Clara [REDACTED]



250 Years of USA!

5/11/26
By Mady G

Did you know that on July 4th 2026
America is celebrating its 250th birthday!

This year the U.S is going to be 250 years old. There are three events I believe are the most important: The American Revolution, The Civil War, and George Washington's life.

One way the U.S. grew as a country was the American Revolution. The country grew because the soldiers came together to fight for something they wanted.

Another way the United States grew was the civil war. The civil war was a bad time. The U.S. was fighting! This was not good but in the end everyone united and stopped fighting.

The last thing I'd like to talk about is George Washington. George Washington was a very brave person who shaped the U.S. He was a general for the American Revolution.

HAPPY Birthday USA!



George Washington

Why is America 250 Important?
America 250 was important because you can reflect on the people and events that shaped the U.S. You can also celebrate the people and cultures that live in America today.

AMERICA 250

- America 250 is a celebration of the 250th anniversary of The United States

- Created and led by the Semiquincentennial Commission with the goals to:

- Get all Americans to enjoy this historic moment
- Inspire civic participation
- Increase education about U.S. History and civics



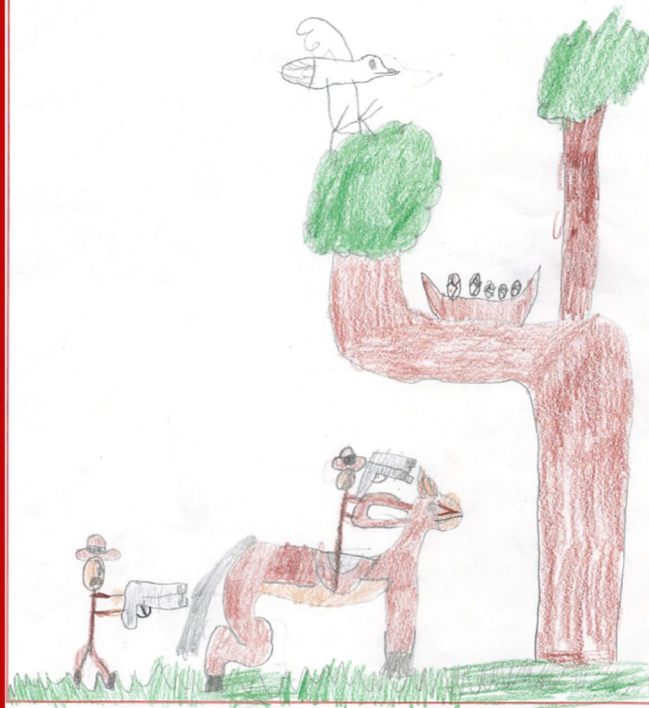
Did you know: "The U.S. gives Congress the power to create bankruptcy laws in order to give Americans a second chance"

Sources: America250.org
UScourts.gov
Congress.gov



CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
July 4, 2026

A Picture by: Isaac



CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
July 4, 2026

A Picture by: charlotte



CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
July 4, 2026

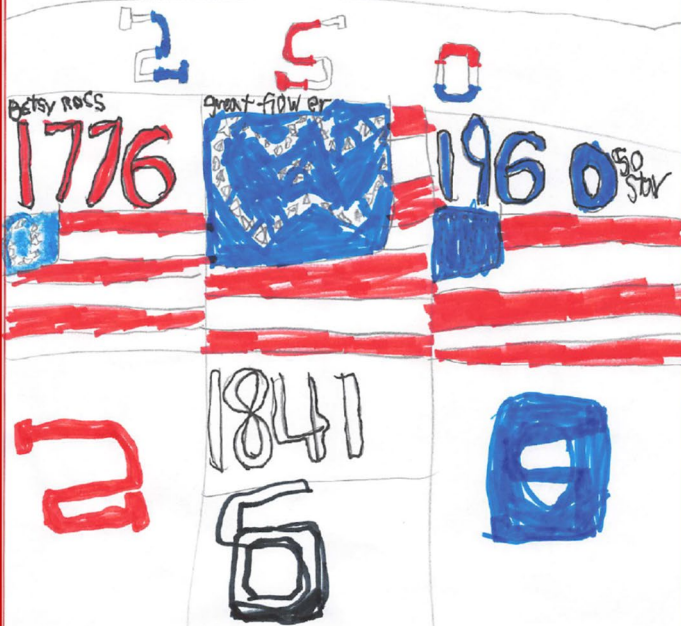
A Picture by: JASON





CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
July 4, 2026

A Picture by: EZRA [redacted]



Bow NH
Ivy

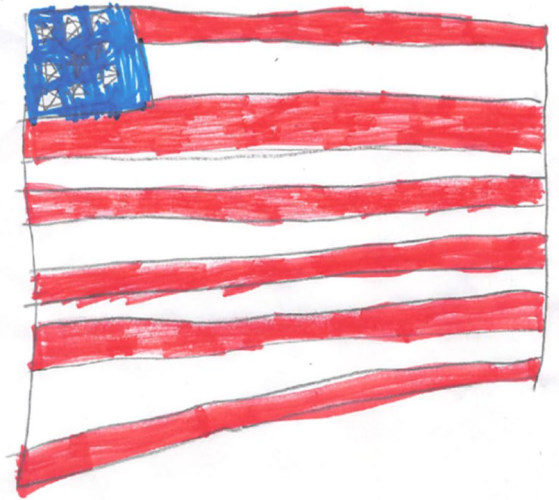


AMERICA 250
IS NOT Just A
Birthday...



CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
July 4, 2026

A Picture by: Kennedy [redacted]



AMERICA'S

To celebrate the ties between the two nations, textile students in Scotland created the Official America 250 Tartan



250

The Smithsonian Institution will feature special exhibitions to discuss the nation's progress and future.

ANNIV.

Bankruptcy law facts

- It aims to engage all 350 million Americans in a nationwide commemoration.
- Helps individuals and businesses eliminate debt or repay through court approved plans.
- **The Discharge:** A court order that releases a debtor from personal liability for specific debts, prohibiting creditors from attempting to collect them.
- Also provides second chances to businesses and individuals to restart.

Cites
• BBC...
• U.S. Mint.gov
• america250.org

AMERICA 250

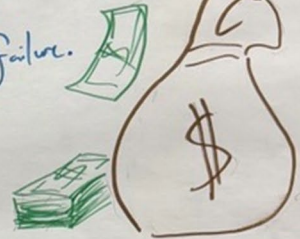
What is America 250?

America 250 celebrates America's 250th year of independence on July 4th, 1776.



What Do Bankruptcy Laws Do?

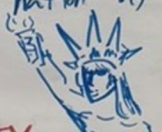
Bankruptcy laws allow businesses and people to start anew after financial failure.



America in the Next 250 Years

Hopefully bankruptcy laws will continue to evolve as needed for our nation as we strive for

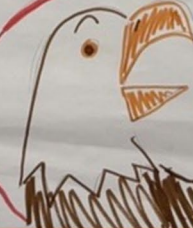
LIFE, LIBERTY,
AND THE PURSUIT OF
HAPPINESS



Do you
KNOW?

The BIGGEST
bankruptcy filing was in
2008 for
691 BILLION
DOLLARS

Source: Reuters



The Power of the Second chance

Our founders realized the U.S. economy requires a safety net. For this reason they gave congress in the constitution they power to create laws on the subject of bankruptcies.



The definition of fairness has evolved over time. Once only for merchants, Bankruptcy became accessible to everyone through the Landmark act of 1841. This evolution balanced the rights with the basic human need to keep essential property and dignity.

Do you know?

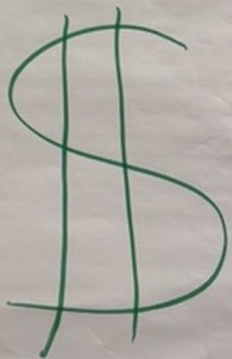
Before federal laws were made permanent in 1898 some states used "debtors prisons" where people were jailed until their debts were paid.



At its heart, these laws are about the "honest but unfortunate" person. By giving people a way to reset, our community stays stronger. It allows families to stay in their homes and keep contributing to the world, proving that in America, your mistakes or bad luck don't have to define your whole life.

Over 250 years, America has shifted from viewing debt as a moral failing to seeing it as an economic reality. We moved away from harsh punishment like debtors prisons, to a system that prioritizes rehabilitation and ensures that financial hardship doesn't lead to a lifetime of exclusion.
(From Punishment to Progress)

America 250 is the official National Celebration marking the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, culminating on July 4, 2026. This milestone, also called the Semiquincentennial, aims to bring all 350 million Americans together to reflect on our shared history. It focuses on telling the stories of our past while inspiring the next generation.



Source: BBC, History.com

EVOLUTION OF BANKRUPTCY

Early America

- Unpaid debt was treated as a failure
- Debtors were sent to harsh debtor prisons

Constitution

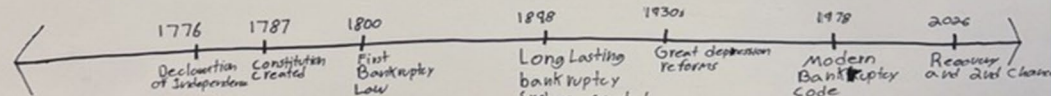
- The U.S. Constitution gave congress the power to create bankruptcy laws
- Leaders wanted a fairer system
- Early laws helped businessmen and merchants

Expansion of laws

- Laws become more focused on helping Americans recover
- Creation of structural court systems for bankruptcy
- Became a more debtor friendly system

Modern Laws

- Bankruptcy laws help people and businesses reorganize debt
- In some cases you can create debt repayment plans or become relieved of your debt
- The system prioritizes fresh starts over debtor punishment



Fun Fact: "The U.S. bankruptcy system is designed for second chances and a fresh start"

- The United States system allows individuals to learn from their mistakes and continue to live a fair life with dignity

Sources: America 250.org, UScourts.gov, Americanbar.org, irs.gov, britannica.com

Second Chances

— How Bankruptcy laws provide a second chance

- The automatic stay
 - When someone files for bankruptcy creditors can no longer take action to collect debts
- Debt Discharge
 - Legally erases the debtor's obligation to pay certain debts
- Liquidation
 - Discharges most unsecured debts giving you a fresh start
- Reorganization
 - For individuals with a regular income, you can create a new repayment plan
 - For businesses with debt problems, they can restructure their debts, renegotiate contracts in order to become profitable again

— American Values

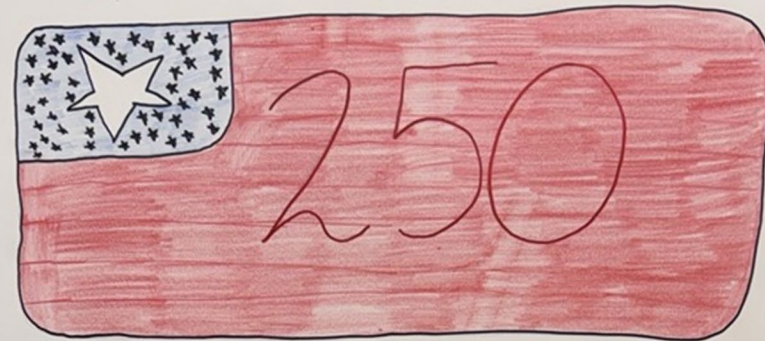
- These systems allow people to learn from their mistakes and improve
- Helps people not be trapped in life long debt and protect families during hard times
- Helps local communities and economies by helping businesses restructure and keep jobs



Did You know: "Roughly 590,000 people filed for Bankruptcy last year"

Sources: Debt.org, UScourts.gov, IRS.gov, britannica.com, America 250.org

AMERICA 250



What is America 250?

The official, nonpartisan, initiative commemorating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, culminating on July 4, 2026.

How has the U.S. evolved?

• Incarceration rates have risen steadily as time passed. The U.S. has the highest incarceration rates in the world. Despite this, the U.S. is still a major force for democracy in the free world.

Intro to Bankruptcy and Second Chances

• Bankruptcy is a safety net for Americans who are in financial ruin. If you lose all your \$ you can fall back on bankruptcy.

How are they connected?

• Bankruptcy shows that the U.S. Federal government doesn't mess around but also offers a second chance to Americans.

Did you know?

- Past presidents have filed for bankruptcy but the most was 6 times (Donald J. Trump)
- Presidents: Lincoln, Jefferson, Grant, McKinley

CITATIONS

- Britannica



America 250
Celebrating the 250th
anniversary of the Declaration
of Independence.



Means Land of Second
Chances too,
Bankruptcy is a opportunity
for a fresh start it doesn't have to
feel like a failure.



BANKRUPTCY

and
America 250
it's okay!



Bankruptcy-what it means
A person or business that is
unable to pay debts can get
a fresh start.

Connect to 250
to Bankruptcy

The option for filing
for bankruptcy has been around
quite a while, and so has the
United States! It's an important
thing to be able to start over
when things don't work out.

