



## Background

The Liberty Bell, now kept in the Tower Room of Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was rung to announce the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The bell was rung every year thereafter until it cracked on July 8, 1835, during the funeral services for John Marshall, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

## Making It Work

Talk about the symbols of the United States of America. The Liberty Bell is one. What are some others? Bells are important symbols in other countries, too.

## Day 1—Fast Facts

### Materials

- encyclopedias or other illustrated reference materials

### Activity

Depending on the age group you are teaching, help students answer these questions or have them use research materials on their own.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. How much does the Liberty Bell weigh? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How much did it cost originally? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where was it first cast? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why was it recast in 1753? \_\_\_\_\_
5. For how many years was it rung on Independence Day? \_\_\_\_\_
6. When did the Liberty Bell crack? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Can it still be rung? \_\_\_\_\_

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### Answers:

1. The Liberty Bell weighs more than 2,080 pounds (936 kg).
2. It cost \$300 in 1752.
3. The bell was first cast in England.
4. It broke when it was rung after its arrival from England.
5. It rang for 59 years, from 1775 until 1835.
6. The bell cracked on July 8, 1835, during John Marshall's funeral.
7. It is no longer rung, but it is struck on special occasions.