Everyone knows that on July 4, 1776, the thirteen colonies declared their independence from Britain. On July 8, the Declaration of Independence was read aloud in Philadelphia, marking the first celebration of Independence Day. The Declaration was written by Thomas Jefferson on a parchment that measured 24.25 inches by 29.75 inches. What was the number of square inches in the area of this document that changed the nation? Express your answer as a decimal to the nearest tenth.

Of the 56 delegates to the Congress, a Committee of Five was appointed to write it. (Jefferson actually did most of the writing, with input from Benjamin Franklin and John Adams.) In how many different ways could a committee of 5 members be chosen from a group of 56?

Independence Day is a day to celebrate our national history. A fun game you can play will teach you about national geography. From construction paper, cut out 100 red stars. On 50 of them, write the names of the states; on the other 50, write the names of the state capitals. Turn the stars face down, and arrange them in a 10 x 10 pattern. Pick two stars at random. If you make a match, go again. If not, it’s the next player’s turn. When all states and capitals have been matched, the player with the most stars wins. What’s the probability that the first two stars chosen will result in a match between a specific capital and state?