

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

OCTOBER 6, 1987—GERMAN AMERICAN DAY

What the Germans brought to America?



Germany and USA flags adorn New York's Waldorf Astoria hotel in 2011.

What the Germans brought to America

German-American Day first gained a spot on US calendars over 130 years ago. An annual holiday on October 6th, it marks the day in 1683 when 13 German families arrived in Philadelphia to set up home. But what exactly made their arrival so important?

Around 50 million German Americans live in the US today, according to a [2010 census](#).

The largest self-reported ancestry group in the States, their numbers beat Irish, African, English, Mexican and Italian Americans - and made up around 17% of the American population in 2009.

Not bad for a colony that began with just 13 families from Krefeld.