

Name _____

Date _____



MEMORIAL DAY

History of Memorial Day

People began celebrating Memorial Day in 1868, three years after the Civil War ended. At this time, it was called Decoration Day because people decorated the graves of those who died during the Civil War. Hymns were sung, flowers were laid across the graves of both the Union and the Confederate soldiers, and prayers were said for those who died.



Decoration Day was celebrated on May 30 for almost 100 years. In 1967, the holiday officially became known as Memorial Day. It soon became a federal holiday, and the date to celebrate Memorial Day was changed to the last Monday in May. It is now known as the day on which all members of the Armed Forces who died serving their country are remembered and honored, not just the soldiers who died during the Civil War.

Today, Memorial Day is celebrated over the entire weekend. When people think about Memorial Day now, they also think of parades, barbecues, picnics, and the start of summer. However, they have not forgotten that it is a day to honor brave men and women who lost their lives protecting their country and our freedom.



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Memorial Day Trivia and Facts

- ♦ President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, New York, to be the “Birthplace of Memorial Day,” referring to a celebration the town had in 1866. Before this, many cities claimed to be the birthplace.
- ♦ The President or Vice President of the United States will deliver a speech at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery and places a wreath in front of the Tomb.
- ♦ Flags are flown at half-mast until noon and then at full mast until sunset.
- ♦ People visit the graves of soldiers and decorate them with flags and flowers.
- ♦ Since 1918, red poppies have been worn because of John McCrae’s poem, In Flanders Fields.
- ♦ Since 2000, all Americans are to pause at 3 pm on Memorial Day to honor and remember the sacrifice of American soldiers.



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MEMORIAL DAY

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.

1. What was Memorial Day originally called?

- a. Veteran's Day
- b. Remembrance Day
- c. Decoration Day
- d. Flag Day



2. What is the purpose of Memorial Day?

- a. to recognize people serving in the Armed Forces right now
- b. to show support to veterans who fought in wars
- c. to encourage people to enlist in the military
- d. to honor those who died protecting the United States

3. When is Memorial Day celebrated?

- a. the first Monday in May
- b. May 30
- c. the last Monday in May
- d. the last Sunday in May

4. Red roses have been worn on Memorial Day since 1918.

- a. True
- b. False



5. Memorial Day was first celebrated in _____.

- a. 1865
- b. 1868
- c. 1918
- d. 2000

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ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.

6. Where is the birthplace of Memorial Day

- a. Charleston, South Carolina
- b. Waterloo, New York
- c. Washington DC
- d. Arlington, Texas



7. Memorial Day is celebrated with _____.

- a. parades
- b. decorating graves of veterans who died
- c. picnics
- d. all of the above



8. Flags are flown at half-mast until noon on Memorial Day.

- a. True
- b. False

9. People pause at ____ on Memorial Day to remember the veterans who died trying protect the country.

- a. noon
- b. 10 am
- c. 3 pm
- d. 6 pm



10. Where does the President or Vice President usually give a speech on Memorial Day?

- a. the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- b. the White House
- c. Mount Rushmore
- d. Waterloo, New York



ANSWERS



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