

MEMORIAL DAY

HISTORY

Reading Comprehension

NO-PREP &

EDITABLE

THE HISTORY OF MEMORIAL DAY

As many Memorial Day weekend marking the end of summer, it is a time to look back with a reflection on the brave men and women who served our country. It is a day to honor the fallen and to celebrate the freedom we enjoy today.

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

The origins of Memorial Day can be traced back to the aftermath of the American Civil War, one of the bloodiest conflicts in the nation's history. As the war came to an end in 1865, communities across the United States grappled with how to honor and remember the fallen soldiers who had given their lives for the nation. In the years following the war, many towns and cities began holding ceremonies to decorate the graves of fallen soldiers with flowers and other tributes. These early observances were often held on different dates, but they all shared a common purpose: to honor the sacrifice of the fallen.

GRATITUDE FOR SERVICE

One of the earliest documented observances of Memorial Day took place in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1868, where freed slaves and Union soldiers buried the remains of a fallen Confederate soldier. This act of kindness was a powerful statement of gratitude for the service of all soldiers, regardless of their allegiance. Over time, these early observances evolved into the modern Memorial Day we know today. Today, Memorial Day is a national holiday that is celebrated across the United States. It is a day to honor the brave men and women who have served our country, and to celebrate the freedom we enjoy today.

MEMORIAL DAY

SEWER

Memorial Day begins?

Memorial Day?

signing May 30 as

**READING COMPREHENSION
MCQ'S
QUESTIONS
ANSWER KEY**

READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

THE HISTORY OF MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is more than just a long weekend marking the unofficial start of summer; it's a solemn occasion with a rich history rooted in honoring the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives in service to their country. Let's delve into the history of Memorial Day and its evolution into the revered national holiday we observe today.



REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

The origins of Memorial Day can be traced back to the aftermath of the American Civil War, one of the bloodiest conflicts in the nation's history. As the war came to an end in 1865, communities across the United States grappled with how to honor and remember the countless soldiers who had given their lives on the

battlefield. Various towns and cities in different states began holding ceremonies to decorate the graves of fallen soldiers with flowers and other tributes, hence the holiday's original name, Decoration Day.

GRATITUDE FOR SERVICE

One of the earliest documented commemorations of Memorial Day took place in Charleston, South Carolina in 1865, where freed slaves and Union soldiers honored fallen soldiers at a former Confederate prisoner-of-war camp. However, it was not until after the end of Reconstruction that Memorial Day gained broader recognition. On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of the Grand Army of the Republic, a fraternal organization for Union veterans, issued a proclamation designating May 30 as Decoration Day. The date was chosen as it did not coincide with any battle anniversary and was ideal for flowers to be in bloom nationwide.



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SUPPORTING VETERANS

Over time, Decoration Day evolved into Memorial Day, and its scope expanded beyond just honoring Civil War veterans to include those who had perished in other conflicts. After World War I, the holiday's significance expanded further to honor all American military personnel who had died in service. In 1948, Memorial Day was officially declared a Federal holiday and designated to be observed on the last Monday in May, ensuring a three-day weekend for Americans to pay their respects to the fallen.

CELEBRATING SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

Today, Memorial Day is observed with solemn ceremonies, parades, and other commemorative events across the country. Many communities hold flag-raising ceremonies, wreath-laying ceremonies at cemeteries and memorials, and moments of silence to honor the sacrifice of those who died in service. It's also a time for families and friends to visit the gravesites of their loved ones, decorate them with flags and flowers, and reflect on the profound impact of their sacrifice.

CONCLUSION

Memorial Day stands as a poignant reminder of the courage, valor, and selflessness exhibited by the men and women who laid down their lives in defense of their nation. It's a day to honor their memory, express gratitude for their sacrifice, and reaffirm our commitment to preserving the freedoms they fought to protect. As we gather with loved ones and participate in commemorative activities, let us never forget the debt of gratitude we owe to the fallen heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

READING COMPREHENSION

**COLORED & B/W
VERSIONS INCLUDED**

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What is the origin of Memorial Day?
2. What was the original name of Memorial Day?
3. Who issued the proclamation Designation Day?
4. How did Decoration Day evolve over time?
5. How is Memorial Day observed in modern times?

5. When was Memorial Day officially established?

- a) 1868
- b) 1848
- c) 1971
- d) 1981

6. What is one modern observation of Memorial Day mentioned in the passage?

- a) Having barbecue parties
- b) Showing flag displays on homes
- c) Having fireworks and decorating flowers
- d) Ignoring the significance of the holiday

7. How is Memorial Day observed in modern times?

- a) With festive celebrations and parties
- b) By ignoring the significance of fallen soldiers
- c) With solemn ceremonies, parades, and events
- d) By minimizing the importance of the holiday

8. What is the purpose of Memorial Day according to the passage?

- a) To celebrate military victories
- b) To honor the memory of fallen soldiers
- c) To promote political agendas
- d) To showcase local businesses

9. What sentiment does Memorial Day evoke according to the passage?

- a) Joy and celebration
- b) Remembrance and solemnity
- c) Mourning and grief
- d) National pride

ANSWER KEY

MCQ'S

1. a) After the American Civil War
2. c) Decoration Day
3. b) General John A. Logan
4. b) It was the ideal time for flowers to be in bloom nationwide
5. b) It expanded to honor all American military personnel who died in service
6. c) 1971
7. c) With solemn ceremonies, parades, and commemorative events
8. b) To honor the memory of fallen soldiers
9. b) Remembrance and solemnity
10. b) Solemnity and remembrance

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. The origin of Memorial Day can be traced back to the aftermath of the American Civil War.
2. The original name of Memorial Day was Decoration Day.
3. The proclamation designating May 30 as Decoration Day was issued by General John A. Logan.
4. Decoration Day evolved over time to honor all American military personnel who died in service.
5. Memorial Day is observed in modern times with solemn ceremonies, parades, and commemorative events.

Name: _____

Date: _____

THE HISTORY OF MEMORIAL DAY

DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

1. When did the origins of Memorial Day begin?
 - a) After World War I
 - b) After the American Civil War
 - c) After the Korean War
 - d) After World War II
2. What was the original name of Memorial Day?
 - a) Veterans Day
 - b) Independence Day
 - c) Decoration Day
 - d) Remembrance Day
3. Who issued the proclamation designating May 30 as Decoration Day?
 - a) General Robert E. Lee
 - b) General John A. Logan
 - c) President Abraham Lincoln
 - d) President Ulysses S. Grant
4. Why was May 30 chosen as Decoration Day?
 - a) It was the anniversary of the end of the Civil War.
 - b) It was the ideal time for flowers to be in bloom nationwide.
 - c) It coincided with the birthday of a prominent Civil War general.
 - d) It was the day of a significant battle during the Civil War.
5. How did Decoration Day evolve over time?
 - a) It remained focused solely on Civil War veterans.
 - b) It expanded to honor all American military personnel who died in service.
 - c) It became a day for celebrating victory in war.
 - d) It became a day for political speeches and debates.

ANSWER KEY INCLUDED

10 - MCQ'S & 5 QUESTIONS

READY TO PRINT

NO-PREP !

JUST PRINT AND GO!



EASY EDITING

EDITABLE

*** FONTS ARE EMBEDDED FOR CONVENIENCE**

