

THE BEGINNING OF MEMORIAL DAY

Reading Comprehension

NO-PREP &

EDITABLE

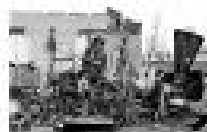


**READING COMPREHENSION
MCQ'S
QUESTIONS
ANSWER KEY**

READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

THE BEGINNING OF MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day, a day of remembrance and honor for those who died serving in the United States military, has deep roots in American history. Let's explore the beginnings of Memorial Day and how it has evolved into the commemorative holiday we observe today.



THE CIVIL WAR AND ITS AFTERMATH

The origins of Memorial Day can be traced back to the aftermath of the American Civil War (1861-1865), one of the bloodiest conflicts in U.S. history. By the end of the war, an estimated 620,000 soldiers had died, both Union and Confederate, making it the deadliest war in American history. In the years

following the war, communities across the country grappled with how to honor and remember the fallen soldiers.

DECORATION DAY

One of the earliest forms of Memorial Day was known as Decoration Day. The exact origins of Decoration Day are disputed, but it is believed to have begun in various communities across the United States in the late 1860s. The practice involved decorating the graves of fallen soldiers with flowers, flags, and other tributes. The act of decorating graves was a way for communities to honor the sacrifice of those who had given their lives in the war.

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OFFICIAL RECOGNITION

The first official observance of Memorial Day is often credited to Waterloo, New York, which held a community-wide commemoration on May 5, 1866. However, other towns and cities also claim to have held similar observances around the same time. In 1868, General John A. Logan, the commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (an organization of Union veterans), issued a proclamation calling for a nationwide day of remembrance to be observed on May 30. This date was chosen because it was not the anniversary of any specific battle.

EVOLUTION INTO MEMORIAL DAY

Over time, Decoration Day evolved into what is now known as Memorial Day. The name "Memorial Day" became more widely used after World War II, and in 1971, Memorial Day was officially declared a federal holiday to be observed on the last Monday in May. This change was part of the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which aimed to create more three-day weekends for federal employees and encourage travel and recreation.

CONCLUSION

Memorial Day has a rich and complex history, rooted in the aftermath of the Civil War and the desire to honor the sacrifices of those who died in service to their country. While its observance has evolved over time, the core purpose of Memorial Day remains the same: to remember and honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in defense of the United States.

READING COMPREHENSION

COLORED & B/W
VERSIONS INCLUDED

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What was the original name for Memorial Day?
2. When did General John A. Logan issue a nationwide day of remembrance?
3. Why was May 30 chosen as the date for the nationwide day of remembrance?
4. When did Memorial Day become a federal holiday?
5. What was the purpose of the Uniform Monday Holiday Act?

6. Why was May 30 chosen as the date for the nationwide day of remembrance?
 - a) It was the birthday of General John A. Logan.
 - b) It was the anniversary of the end of the Civil War.
 - c) It was not the anniversary of any specific battle.
 - d) It coincided with Independence Day.

7. When was Memorial Day officially established as a federal holiday?
 - a) 1868
 - b) 1908
 - c) 1938
 - d) 1971

8. What event prompted the change from Decoration Day to Memorial Day?
 - a) World War I
 - b) World War II
 - c) The Korean War
 - d) The Vietnam War

9. What was the purpose of the Uniform Monday Holiday Act?
 - a) To create more three-day weekends for employees.
 - b) To encourage travel and recreation.
 - c) To honor fallen soldiers.
 - d) All of the above.

10. What is the core purpose of Memorial Day?
 - a) To celebrate military victories.
 - b) To remember all fallen soldiers.
 - c) To honor Union veterans.
 - d) To decorate the graves of fallen soldiers.

ANSWER KEY

MCQ'S

1. a) Honoring fallen soldiers
2. c) 1868-1869
3. d) Decoration Day
4. b) General John A. Logan
5. c) It was not the anniversary of any specific battle.
6. c) It was not the anniversary of any specific battle.
7. d) 1971
8. b) World War II
9. d) To create more three-day weekends for federal employees and encourage travel and recreation.
10. b) To remember all fallen soldiers.

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. The original name for Memorial Day was Decoration Day.
2. General John A. Logan issued a proclamation for a nationwide day of remembrance in 1868.
3. May 30 was chosen as the date for the nationwide day of remembrance because it was not the anniversary of any specific battle.
4. Memorial Day became a federal holiday in 1971.
5. The purpose of the Uniform Monday Holiday Act was to create more three-day weekends for federal employees and encourage travel and recreation.

Name: _____

Date: _____

THE BEGINNING OF MEMORIAL DAY

DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

1. What is the main focus of Memorial Day?
 - a) Celebrating military victories
 - b) Honoring fallen soldiers
 - c) Recognizing living veterans
 - d) Promoting patriotism

- a) Celebrating military victories
- b) Honoring fallen soldiers
- c) Recognizing living veterans
- d) Promoting patriotism

2. When did the American Civil War take place?
 - a) 1776-1783
 - b) 1861-1865
 - c) 1861-1865
 - d) 1914-1918

- a) 1776-1783
- b) 1861-1865
- c) 1861-1865
- d) 1914-1918

3. What was one of the earliest forms of Memorial Day called?
 - a) Veterans Day
 - b) Independence Day
 - c) Decoration Day
 - d) Armistice Day

- a) Veterans Day
- b) Independence Day
- c) Decoration Day
- d) Armistice Day

4. What was the purpose of Decoration Day?
 - a) To celebrate military victories
 - b) To remember all fallen soldiers
 - c) To honor Union veterans
 - d) To decorate the graves of fallen soldiers

- a) To celebrate military victories
- b) To remember all fallen soldiers
- c) To honor Union veterans
- d) To decorate the graves of fallen soldiers

5. Who is credited with issuing the first proclamation for a nationwide day of remembrance?
 - a) Abraham Lincoln
 - b) General John A. Logan
 - c) General Robert E. Lee
 - d) President Ulysses S. Grant

- a) Abraham Lincoln
- b) General John A. Logan
- c) General Robert E. Lee
- d) President Ulysses S. Grant

ANSWER KEY
INCLUDED

10 - MCQ'S & 5
QUESTIONS

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