

Lei Day

THE STORY BEHIND LEI READING COMPREHENSION

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INTRODUCTION

The story behind Lei Day is not just a date on the calendar; it's a deeply rooted in the traditions and history of Hawaii. This resource provides a comprehensive look at every little detail, offering a unique history of this celebration, including its origin, meaning, and legacy. The slides include a detailed history and meaning behind Lei Day, along with the origins of Hawaiian Leis.

ORIGIN OF LEI DAY

The history of Lei Day begins in the early 1900s, when poet and writer Don Stoeness proposed the idea of a day dedicated to celebrating the lei – a cherished symbol of peace and Hawaiian hospitality. Inspired by the beauty and cultural significance of the lei, Stoeness organized a small gathering that would honor the art of leiomaking and the spirit of Aloha among Hawaiians and visitors alike.

CELEBRATIONS

Today, Lei Day is celebrated across the state of Hawaii and beyond. The traditional Lei Day activities, including leiomaking contests, parades, and performances, have evolved to include more modern elements. However, one of the most popular traditions remains an annual float.

LEI DAY QUESTIONS

What is Lei Day? Who is Lei Day? A Lei is a traditional Hawaiian garland made from flowers, leaves, shells, or feathers, each having a different meaning. It is often presented as a gesture of welcome. The act of giving and receiving a Lei is a symbol of Hawaiian culture and hospitality.

READING COMPREHENSION MCQ'S

QUESTIONS

ANSWER KEY

READING COMPREHENSION
MCQ'S
QUESTIONS
ANSWER KEY

READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

THE STORY BEHIND LEI

Lei Day in Hawaii is not just a date on the calendar; it's a celebration deeply rooted in the traditions, values, and spirit of aloha that define Hawaiian culture. Behind every lei, every hula dance, and every joyful gathering lies a story of love, connection, and the enduring legacy of the islands. Join us as we uncover the rich history and meaning behind Lei Day, a day that honors the essence of Hawaii and its people.



ORIGINS OF LEI DAY

The story of Lei Day begins in the early 20th century when poet and writer Don Blodding proposed the idea of a day dedicated to celebrating the lei - a cherished symbol of aloha and Hawaiian hospitality. Inspired by the beauty and cultural significance of the lei, Blodding envisioned a day of festivities that would honor the art of lei-making and promote the spirit of aloha among residents and visitors alike.

MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

In 1927, the first Lei Day was celebrated in Honolulu, coinciding with the traditional May Day festivities. The inaugural Lei Day featured music, hula performances, lei-making demonstrations, and a grand lei contest, where artisans showcased their skill and creativity in crafting exquisite leis from an array of natural materials. The event captured the imagination of the public and quickly became an annual tradition.

SYMBOLISM OF THE LEI

Central to Lei Day is the lei itself - a symbol of love, respect, and connection that holds deep cultural and spiritual significance in Hawaiian culture. Made from flowers, leaves, shells, or feathers, each lei carries its own unique meaning and often given as a gesture of welcome, farewell, or celebration. The act of giving and receiving a lei is a heartfelt expression of aloha, fostering bonds of friendship and unity.

READING COMPREHENSION

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CULTURAL PRESERVATION

Lei Day plays a vital role in preserving and perpetuating Hawaiian cultural traditions, ensuring that the art of lei-making and the spirit of aloha are passed down from one generation to the next. Through lei-making workshops, hula performances, and cultural demonstrations, Lei Day provides an opportunity for residents and visitors to connect with Hawaii's rich heritage and deepen their appreciation for its unique culture.

COMMUNITY AND OHANA

At its core, Lei Day is a celebration of community and ohana - the Hawaiian concept of family and interconnectedness. Whether it's gathering with loved ones for a beachside picnic, attending a lei-making workshop, or joining in a hula performance, Lei Day brings people together to celebrate their shared heritage and strengthen the bonds that unite them.

CONCLUSION

As we celebrate Lei Day, let us honor the traditions, values, and spirit of aloha that define Hawaiian culture. May Lei Day be a time of joy, gratitude, and connection as we come together to weave the stories of our past into the fabric of our present, ensuring that the legacy of Lei Day lives on for generations to come. Aloha mai, aloha aka - love received, love given. Happy Lei Day!

Name _____

Date _____

THE STORY BEHIND EVERY LEI

DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

1. Who proposed the idea of Lei Day?
 - A) King Kamehameha
 - B) Queen Liliuokalani
 - C) Don Nelling
 - D) Duke Kahanamoku

2. When was the first Lei Day celebrated?
 - A) 1927
 - B) 1955
 - C) 1965
 - D) 1985

3. What coincided with the first Lei Day celebration in Honolulu?
 - A) Christmas
 - B) Thanksgiving
 - C) May Day
 - D) Independence Day

4. What is the lei symbolized as in Hawaiian culture?
 - A) Wealth and status
 - B) Power and authority
 - C) Love, respect, and connection
 - D) Isolation and indifference

5. What is the primary purpose of Lei Day?
 - A) To promote competition
 - B) To honor and preserve Hawaiian cultural traditions
 - C) To discourage cultural preservation
 - D) To forget Hawaiian heritage

ANSWER KEY

MCQ'S

1. C) King Kamehameha
2. A) 1927
3. C) May Day
4. C) Love, respect, and connection
5. B) To honor and preserve Hawaiian cultural traditions
6. B) To honor and preserve Hawaiian cultural traditions. To promote competition and collaboration.
7. C) Love, respect, and connection
8. C) Love, respect, and connection
9. C) Love, respect, and connection
10. C) Honor and preserve Hawaiian cultural heritage

SHADE ANSWER QUESTIONS:

1. Don Nelling originated the idea of Lei Day.
2. The first Lei Day was celebrated in 1927.
3. The first Lei Day celebration in Honolulu coincided with May Day.
4. The lei symbolized love, respect, and connection in Hawaiian culture.
5. The primary purpose of Lei Day is to honor and preserve Hawaiian cultural heritage.

**10 - MCQ'S & 5
QUESTIONS**

**ANSWER KEY
INCLUDED**

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