

Labor History Month

FIRST LABOR DAY READING COMPREHENSION

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EDITABLE**



THE FIRST LABOR DAY

History Month is a time to honor the
contributions and achievements of workers
throughout history. At the heart of this
month is the origin of Labor Day, a
day dedicated to the social and economic
struggles of American workers who drive
the progress of the First Labor (the day of
the labor movement).

THE RISE OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT

In the late 19th century, as industrialization swept across
the United States, workers faced grueling working
conditions, long hours, and little pay. In response, labor
unions emerged, advocating for better treatment, fair
wages, and safer working conditions. Strikes and protests
became common as workers fought for
rights and dignity.

FIRST LABOR DAY

The first Labor Day holiday in honor
of workers was celebrated in
1882 in New York City. It was
observed on September 8th, the
anniversary of the signing of the
National Labor Relations Act.
The day was a time for parades,
picnics, and other community
events.

LABOR DAY

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

1. What is Labor Day?

2. Why is Labor Day important?

3. How did Labor Day come about?

4. What are some ways to honor workers?

5. How do you think workers should be treated?

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

READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

THE FIRST LABOR DAY

Labor History Month is a time to honor the contributions and achievements of workers throughout history. At the heart of this celebration lies the origins of Labor Day, a holiday dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. Let's delve into the history of the First Labor Day and its significance in shaping the labor movement.



THE RISE OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT

In the late 19th century, as industrialization swept across the United States, workers faced grueling working conditions, low wages, and long hours. In response, labor unions emerged, advocating for better treatment, fair wages, and safer working conditions. Strikes, protests, and labor unrest became commonplace as workers fought for their rights and dignity.

THE PROPOSAL FOR LABOR DAY

Amidst growing demands for a national holiday to honor workers, the idea for Labor Day began to take shape. In 1882, Peter J. McGuire, a labor leader and co-founder of the American Federation of Labor, proposed the idea of a day to celebrate the contributions of the working class. Inspired by the annual labor festivals held in Canada, McGuire envisioned a day dedicated to parades, picnics, and gatherings to honor workers and their achievements.



Peter J. McGuire

THE FIRST LABOR DAY PARADE

On September 5, 1882, the first Labor Day parade took place in New York City, organized by the Central Labor Union. Thousands of workers from various trades marched through the streets, carrying banners and signs calling for better wages, shorter hours, and improved working conditions. The parade culminated in a picnic and festivities, bringing together workers and their families in a spirit of solidarity and celebration.

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RECOGNITION AND EXPANSION

The success of the first Labor Day parade inspired other cities and states to follow suit, holding their own celebrations to honor workers. In 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed legislation making Labor Day a national holiday, to be observed on the first Monday in September each year. This holiday served as a symbol of recognition for the contributions and sacrifices of American workers and marked a significant milestone in the labor movement.

LEGACY AND SIGNIFICANCE

The first Labor Day laid the groundwork for a holiday that continues to be celebrated today, serving as a reminder of the struggles and triumphs of workers throughout history. It represents a victory for the labor movement and a recognition of the importance of collective action in achieving social and economic justice. As we commemorate Labor History Month, let us remember the origins of Labor Day and honor the enduring legacy of the labor movement in shaping the rights and protections of workers everywhere.



CONCLUSION

Labor History Month is a time to reflect on the journey of the labor movement and the achievements of workers in advancing social and economic justice. From the first Labor Day parade in 1882 to the present day, the fight for workers' rights continues, reminding us of the ongoing struggle for dignity, fairness, and equality in the workplace. As we celebrate Labor History Month, let us pay tribute to the pioneers of the labor movement and renew our commitment to building a more just and equitable society for all.

READING COMPREHENSION

COLORED & B/W VERSIONS INCLUDED

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What is Labor history Month?
2. Who proposed the idea of Labor Day?
3. When did the First Labor Day parade take place?
4. What was the main purpose of the parade?
5. Who signed legislation making Labor Day a national holiday?

6. When is Labor Day observed in the United States?
 - a) First Monday in August
 - b) First Monday in September
 - c) First Monday in October
 - d) First Monday in November

7. What was the significance of the first Labor Day parade?
 - a) It marked the end of the labor movement.
 - b) It inspired other cities and states to hold parades.
 - c) It led to the formation of labor unions.
 - d) It focused on advocating for longer working hours.

8. What is the legacy of the First Labor Day?
 - a) It represents a victory for the total recognition of workers' contributions.
 - b) It led to the decline of workers' rights.
 - c) It had no lasting impact on labor law.
 - d) It discouraged labor unions' activities.

9. What is the main theme of Labor Day?
 - a) Celebrating technological advancement.
 - b) Reflecting on the achievements of the labor movement.
 - c) Advocating for longer working hours.
 - d) Ignoring the struggles of workers.

10. What message does the passage convey about Labor Day?
 - a) It highlights the importance of honoring workers.
 - b) It criticizes the labor movement.
 - c) It celebrates the contributions of workers.
 - d) It emphasizes the need for labor reform.

ANSWER KEY

MCQ'S

1. c) Peter J. McGuire
2. d) September 5, 1892
3. b) New York City
4. d) To celebrate the contributions and achievements of workers.
5. c) Grover Cleveland
6. b) First Monday in September
7. b) It inspired other cities and states to hold similar parades.
8. a) It represents a victory for the labor movement and recognition of workers' contributions.
9. b) Reflecting on the achievements of the labor movement and workers.
10. c) It highlights the importance of honoring workers.

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Recognizing and celebrating the contributions and achievements of workers throughout history.
2. Peter J. McGuire
3. September 5, 1892
4. To celebrate the contributions and achievements of workers.
5. Grover Cleveland

Name: _____

Date: _____

THE FIRST LABOR DAY

DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

1. Who proposed the idea of Labor Day?
 - a) Grover Cleveland
 - b) Peter J. McGuire
 - c) Samuel Gompers
 - d) Peter J. McGuire and Grover Cleveland
2. When did the first Labor Day parade take place?
 - a) September 5, 1892
 - b) September 1, 1891
 - c) September 5, 1894
 - d) September 1, 1894
3. Where was the first Labor Day parade organized?
 - a) Chicago
 - b) New York City
 - c) Washington D.C.
 - d) Boston
4. What was the main purpose of the first Labor Day parade?
 - a) To protest against labor unions.
 - b) To advocate for longer working hours.
 - c) To celebrate the contributions and achievements of workers.
 - d) To demand higher taxes for workers.
5. Who signed legislation making Labor Day a national holiday?
 - a) Peter J. McGuire
 - b) Samuel Gompers
 - c) Grover Cleveland
 - d) Abraham Lincoln

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**

