

Name:

Date:

MEMORIAL DAY READING

Answer each question.

Since 1868, just three years after the end of the Civil War, people have been celebrating Memorial Day. The holiday was first called Decoration Day and its main focus was decorating the graves of those who died during the Civil War. Volunteers would sing hymns, spread flowers on graves of Union and Confederate soldiers, and pray for the dead.

Traditionally, Decoration Day was celebrated on May 30. It wasn't until 1971 that the holiday was changed to Memorial Day and became an official holiday. The date was also changed to the last Monday in May. Instead of only honoring soldiers from the Civil War, Memorial Day became a time to honor all of the men and women of the Armed Forces who died serving their country.

Today, Memorial Day is often celebrated as Memorial Day Weekend. It is considered the official start to summer. Many pools officially open on Memorial Day weekend. Families and friends gather for cookouts. However, many communities also take time to remember the true meaning of Memorial Day. Speeches are given. Parades are held. Memorials and monuments are visited. Wreaths and flowers are set on gravesites. It is a day to remember and honor those who died while serving our country, sacrifices and all, to freely celebrate Memorial Day and other holidays all year long.

What is the purpose of Memorial Day?

When is Memorial Day held?

What was the original name for Memorial Day?

How does the author of the passage feel about Memorial Day?