

Name : _____ Date : _____

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States that honors the men and women who died while serving in the military. It is observed on the last Monday of May each year.

The holiday began after the Civil War, which lasted from 1861 to 1865 and resulted in the deaths of more than 600,000 soldiers. After the war, people across the country began holding tributes to honor fallen soldiers by decorating their graves with flowers.

Because of this, the holiday was originally called "Decoration Day."

One of the earliest known observances took place in 1868, when General John A. Logan declared May 30 as a day to remember soldiers who died in the Civil War. Over time, the holiday expanded to honor all American military personnel who died in any war.

In 1971, Memorial Day became an official federal holiday and was moved to the last Monday in May to create a three-day weekend. Today, people observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries, attending parades, flying the American flag, and participating in moments of remembrance.

At 3:00 PM local time, many Americans pause for a National Moment of Remembrance.

1.) What is the main purpose of Memorial Day?

2.) Why was the holiday originally called "Decoration Day"?

3.) Which war led to the creation of Memorial Day?

4.) Who declared the first official Decoration Day in 1868?

5.) When did Memorial Day become a federal holiday?

6.) What are three ways people observe Memorial Day today?

7.) What happens at 3:00 PM on Memorial Day?
