

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Date : \_\_\_\_\_

# Memorial Day History

# WORKSHEET

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

The holiday began after the American Civil War (1861–1865), a conflict between the Northern and Southern states. After the war, many communities wanted to honor fallen soldiers by decorating their graves with flowers. Because of this tradition, the day was originally called Decoration Day.

One of the earliest large observances took place in 1868, when people gathered at Arlington National Cemetery to place flowers on the graves of Union soldiers. Over time, the holiday expanded to honor all American military personnel who died in any war.

In 1971, Memorial Day officially became a federal holiday and was moved to the last Monday in May to create a three-day weekend. Today, Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries, attending parades, flying flags at half-staff, and participating in moments of remembrance.

Memorial Day is also considered the unofficial start of summer, but its true meaning is to honor sacrifice and remember those who gave their lives for their country.

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## QUESTIONS:

- 1.) What is the main purpose of Memorial Day?  
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- 2.) When is Memorial Day celebrated?  
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- 3.) What was Memorial Day originally called?  
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- 4.) Why was it called Decoration Day?  
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- 5.) Which war led to the creation of Memorial Day?  
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