

Name:

Date:

# MEMORIAL DAY READING

Respond to the prompt below. Write the answer on other paper.

Many people confuse Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Veterans Day. Why do people do that? Each of these holidays focuses on honoring a group of people, but there are different reasons that make them unique.

Memorial Day is celebrated every year on the last Monday in May, and some people call this the beginning of the summer season. But this holiday is more than a weekend to celebrate the beginning of summer. It is a day to honor those who have died in military service. Memorial Day is a day to pay tribute to the soldiers who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. In the beginning, this day was called Decoration Day, and it was first celebrated after the Civil War to honor soldiers who had died during that conflict. This special day was renamed Memorial Day in 1950. A good way to remember the meaning of Memorial Day is to think of the word "memorial," which is related to the word "memory." On Memorial Day, people honor the memory of those who died in service to their country.

Labor Day is a day to celebrate American workers. This holiday's purpose is to recognize the hard work that helps the country move ahead. Labor Day was first celebrated in 1882 in New York City, and every year it is held on the first Monday in September. On this day, people honor all laborers by enjoying a day off from work and school. Many cities have parades and festivals to celebrate Labor Day, and there are speeches by leaders and family picnics. People take this day off to relax and enjoy themselves.

Veterans Day is a day to honor veterans who have served in the United States Armed Forces. A veteran is any person who has served in the military forces. Veterans Day used to be called Armistice Day, and it was first celebrated on November 11, 1919, to honor those who had served in World War I. In 1954, the name was changed to Veterans Day to honor all veterans. Veterans Day is held every year on November 11. There are parades and speeches to honor veterans, and people thank veterans for their service.

Why is it important to know the difference between Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Veterans Day?