

Name:

Date:

LABOR DAY READING

Answer each question.

Labor Day is celebrated on the first Monday in September. The word labor means work, so on this day we honor American workers. It also means the end of summer for many of us. We are usually going back to school at this time. The pools close and we may have our last vacation for the summer. It is a day off from work and school, a time to relax and maybe have a picnic with friends and family.

The first Labor Day holiday was held on September 5, 1882, in New York City. It was created to honor the hard-working people of America and all they had accomplished. On this day, thousands of workers marched in a parade. They wanted to bring attention to unfair and dangerous working conditions. At that time, many Americans worked more than twelve hours a day with very little pay. Sometimes children as young as five years old worked in factories. Working conditions began to improve in the late 1800s and in 1894, Congress declared Labor Day a federal holiday.

What happened on the first Labor Day?

Why do we celebrate Labor Day?

Tell how you like to spend your Labor Day holiday.