

# Memorial Day Worksheets

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

## Famous People




Find a photo of four famous American soldiers and write a short biographical narrative on each.

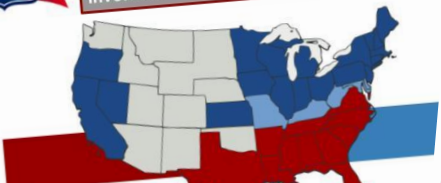


Name: \_\_\_\_\_


## American Civil War




Memorial Day originally commemorated the fallen American soldiers during the Civil War. Can you provide the necessary information below on the states involved in the Civil War?



Fact 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Fact 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Fact 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Fact 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Fact 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Fact 3 \_\_\_\_\_



Confederate States




Union States


MEMORIAL DAY WORKSHEETS


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


## Modified TRUE or FALSE





Memorial Day is one of the most observed holidays in the U.S. Write TRUE if the statement is correct. Otherwise, change the underlined word.

 In order to honor those who died during the American Civil War, Gen. George Washington delivered a speech at Arlington National Cemetery.

 Memorial Day is also known as Veterans Day.

 It was Mark Twain's idea to wear red poppies during Memorial Day.

 The day is originally commemorated every 30th of May.

 In 2000, US President George W. Bush signed the National Moment Remembrance Act.

MEMORIAL DAY WORKSHEETS

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- Ryan, Beth & Nicola :)

# Memorial Day **Facts**



# MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States observed every last Monday in May. Initially, it meant to commemorate fallen soldiers during the Civil War. In the 1900s, it became a celebration to honor soldiers who died in any war while serving the country and was formerly known as Decoration Day.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- ❖ From 1861 to 1865, the United States was involved in a Civil War which divided Americans into Union and Confederate states. The war broke out due to many disparities among the northerners (free states) and southerners (slave states).
- ❖ Union states were headed by US President Abraham Lincoln while the Confederates elected their own, Mississippian Senator Jefferson Davis.
- ❖ Many able Americans were recruited to be soldiers, including farmers, mechanists, plumbers, and teachers. When the war ended it was estimated that 620,000 soldiers from both sides died.



# Memorial Day Facts

- ❖ On May 5, 1868, three years after the war, Major General John A. Logan, head of the Grand Army of the Republic established Decoration Day which should be observed on May 30th. It was the time of year for Americans to decorate the graves of soldiers who died in the previous war. People in Waterloo, New York were the first to observe Decoration Day.
- ❖ In the same year, then-Ohio Congressman and later U.S President James Garfield delivered a speech at Arlington National Cemetery. It was attended by 5,000 participants who decorated the graves of around 20,000 soldiers who were buried there.

## DECORATION DAY TO MEMORIAL DAY

- ❖ Prior to World War I, southerners did not recognize Decoration Day. It was the northerners who observed the day with much enthusiasm. When Decoration Day was proposed to honor all soldiers who died in any war, southerners embraced it.
- ❖ By 1967, Decoration Day was officially named as Memorial Day. Four years later, it was declared as a federal holiday and the date was moved to the last Monday in May for a longer weekend.



*Memorial Day  
Parade in Glendale  
held on May 31,  
1971*





# Memorial Day Facts

- ❖ On Memorial Day, people participate in and watch an annual parade. In addition, flags are flown at half-mast until noon, then to full mast until sunset.
- ❖ Wearing of red poppies is also a tradition which originated from John McCrae's poem *In Flanders Field*.
- ❖ It is also a popular day to visit the graves of soldiers and decorate them with flags and flowers. While others may choose to travel over Memorial Day weekend as it marks the beginning of summer.
- ❖ Aside from the federal holiday, some southern states celebrate the Confederate Memorial Day. In Georgia and Mississippi, it is observed every last Monday of April, June 3 in Louisiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee, April 26 in Florida, and January 19 in Texas.
- ❖ On December 28, 2000, US President Bill Clinton signed the National Moment of Remembrance. Aside from the initial traditions, all Americans need to pause at 3pm during Memorial Day to honor and remember the sacrifice of American soldiers.



- ★ It is considered one of the most popular holidays in the United States next to 4th of July and Thanksgiving.

- ★ In Washington D.C, the annual Rolling Thunder Run is observed to raise awareness of prisoners of war or those lost in action.
- ★ Memorial Day is often mistaken with Veterans Day. The latter honors all US military veterans while Memorial Day honors the soldiers who died while serving.



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## ANSWER KEY

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