MEMORIAL DAY

http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/05/memorial_day.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.
THE READING / TAPESCRIPIT

Memorial Day is a United States federal holiday. It commemorates the American men and women who have died serving their country in the military. It holds an important place in the hearts of Americans as they remember sacrifices made for their freedom. It is observed on the last Monday of May. It first started to honour the Union soldiers who died during the American Civil War. It took on greater importance after American losses in World War I. The U.S. government decided the day would remember American casualties in any war, conflict or military action. People visit cemeteries and war memorials on this day. A special ceremony takes place at Arlington Cemetery in Washington D.C. All around the country, flags fly at half-mast until lunch time.

There is quite a history to Memorial Day. A Yale University professor said it was first celebrated in 1865 by freed slaves in South Carolina. The slaves buried dozens of Union soldiers in individual graves. They all died in prison. Waterloo, New York claims to be the official birthplace of Memorial Day, observing it every year from 1868. The name “Memorial Day” came about in 1882 but was not widely accepted until after World War II. The name became official in 1967. In 1968, the U.S. Congress decided the day should be part of a three-day weekend. The last change came in 1971, when the government moved Memorial Day to the last Monday in May. It took a few years after that for all U.S. states to follow.
PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

1. men and women who have died  a. the American Civil War
2. Union soldiers who died during  b. memorials on this day
3. American losses  c. serving their country
4. remember American  d. half-mast
5. People visit cemeteries and war  e. casualties
   flags fly at  f. in World War I

Paragraph 2

1. There is quite a  a. by freed slaves
2. it was first celebrated in 1865  b. three-day weekend
3. New York claims to be the  c. years after that
4. The name “Memorial Day” came  d. history to Memorial Day
5. part of a  e. official birthplace
6. It took a few  f. about in 1882
LISTENING GAP FILL

Memorial Day is a United States federal holiday. It commemorates the American men and women _______________ their country in the military. It holds an important place in the hearts of Americans as they remember sacrifices made _______________. It is observed on the last Monday of May. It first _______________ the Union soldiers who died during the American Civil War. It took on greater importance after American losses in World War I. The U.S. government _______________ remember American casualties in any war, conflict or military action. People visit cemeteries and war memorials on this day. A special ceremony _______________ Arlington Cemetery in Washington D.C. All around the country, flags fly at half-______________.

There is _______________ Memorial Day. A Yale University professor said it was first celebrated in 1865 _______________ South Carolina. The slaves buried dozens of Union soldiers in individual graves. They all died in prison. Waterloo, New York claims to be the official birthplace of Memorial Day, _______________ from 1868. The name “Memorial Day” came about in 1882 but was _______________ until after World War II. The name became official in 1967. In 1968, the U.S. Congress decided the day _______________ -day weekend. The last change came in 1971, when the government moved Memorial Day to the last Monday in May. It took a few years _______________ U.S. states to follow.
MEMORIAL DAY

WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Memorial Day is a United States _________ holiday. It commemorates the American men and women who have died _________ their country in the military. It holds an important place in the hearts of Americans as they remember _________ made for their freedom. It is observed on the last Monday of May. It first started to honour the Union soldiers who died during the American Civil War. It took on _________ importance after American losses in World War I. The U.S. government decided the day would remember American _________ in any war, conflict or military action. People _________ cemeteries and war memorials on this day. A special _________ takes place at Arlington Cemetery in Washington D.C. All around the country, flags fly at half-_________ until lunch time.

There is _________ a history to Memorial Day. A Yale University professor said it was first celebrated in 1865 by _________ slaves in South Carolina. The slaves buried _________ of Union soldiers in individual graves. They all died in prison. Waterloo, New York claims to be the _________ birthplace of Memorial Day, observing it every year from 1868. The name “Memorial Day” came about in 1882 but was not widely _________ until after World War II. The name became official in 1967. In 1968, the U.S. Congress decided the day should be _________ of a three-day weekend. The last _________ came in 1971, when the government moved Memorial Day to the last Monday in May. It took a few years after that for all U.S. states to _________.
CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD
Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

Memorial Day is a United States *federal / holidays* holiday. It commemorates the American men and women who have died serving their country in the military. It holds an *importance / important* place in the hearts of Americans as they remember sacrifices made for their *freedom / freely*. It is observed on the last Monday of May. It first started to honour the Union soldiers who *dead / died* during the American Civil War. It took on greater importance after American *losses / lost* in World War I. The U.S. government decided the day would remember American casualties in *any / many* war, conflict or military action. People visit cemeteries and war memorials on this day. A special ceremony *takes / makes* place at Arlington Cemetery in Washington D.C. All around the country, flags *fly / flew* at half-mast until lunch time.

There is *quite / quit* a history to Memorial Day. A Yale University professor said it was first *celebration / celebrated* in 1865 by freed slaves in South Carolina. The slaves buried *dozens / dozen* of Union soldiers in individual graves. They all died in prison. Waterloo, New York claims to be the *officially / official* birthplace of Memorial Day, observing it every year from 1868. The name “Memorial Day” came about in 1882 but was not *widely / width* accepted until after World War II. The name became official in 1967. In 1968, the U.S. Congress decided the day should *be / been* part of a three-day weekend. The last change came in 1971, when the government moved Memorial Day *to / at* the last Monday in May. It took a few years after that for all U.S. states to *follow / following*. 
Memorial Day is a United States (1) ____ holiday. It commemorates the American men and women who have died (2) ____ their country in the military. It holds an important place in the hearts of Americans as they (3) ____ sacrifices made for their freedom. It is observed on the last Monday of May. It first started to honour the Union soldiers who (4) ____ during the American Civil War. It took on greater importance after American losses in World War I. The U.S. government decided the day would remember American casualties in any war, conflict or (5) ____ action. People visit cemeteries and war memorials on this day. A special ceremony takes place at Arlington Cemetery in Washington D.C. All around the country, flags fly at half-mast (6) ____ lunch time.

There is (7) ____ a history to Memorial Day. A Yale University professor said it was first celebrated in 1865 by freed slaves in South Carolina. The slaves buried dozens of Union soldiers in individual graves. They all died in prison. Waterloo, New York claims to be the (8) ____ birthplace of Memorial Day, observing it every year from 1868. The name “Memorial Day” (9) ____ about in 1882 but was not widely accepted until after World War II. The name became official in 1967. In 1968, the U.S. Congress (10) ____ the day should be part of a three-day weekend. The (11) ____ change came in 1971, when the government moved Memorial Day to the last Monday in May. It took a few years after that for all U.S. states to (12) ____.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

1. (a) federally (b) federation (c) fed-ex (d) federal
2. (a) serving (b) services (c) served (d) serves
3. (a) remember (b) memorial (c) memorize (d) remembered
4. (a) death (b) dead (c) died (d) dying
5. (a) militia (b) militarize (c) military (d) militaries
6. (a) since (b) until (c) ago (d) between
7. (a) quit (b) quiet (c) quiten (d) quite
8. (a) officially (b) official (c) officials (d) officialdom
9. (a) went (b) took (c) came (d) did
10. (a) decision (b) decide (c) deciding (d) decided
11. (a) list (b) last (c) lust (d) lost
12. (a) follow (b) follows (c) following (d) followed
SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. a United States eefaldr holiday
2. died ginervs their country
3. sacrifices made for their reefdo
4. American losess in World War I
5. American asteslcaiu in any war
6. apcslei ceremony

Paragraph 2

7. There is quite a rtiysho to Memorial Day
8. freed assvel
9. the faocifil birthplace of Memorial Day
10. widely decapect
11. part of a three-day weedekn
12. all U.S. states to oolfwl
Monday of May. It first started to honour the Union soldiers who died during the American Civil War. It

graves. They all died in prison. Waterloo, New York claims to be the official birthplace

official in 1967. In 1968, the U.S. Congress decided the day should be

and women who have died serving their country in the military. It holds an important place in the

There is quite a history to Memorial Day. A Yale University professor said it was first celebrated

the last Monday in May. It took a few years after that for all U.S. states to follow.

in 1865 by freed slaves in South Carolina. The slaves buried dozens of Union soldiers in individual

hearts of Americans as they remember sacrifices made for their freedom. It is observed on the last

part of a three-day weekend. The last change came in 1971, when the government moved Memorial Day to

of Memorial Day, observing it every year from 1868. The name “Memorial Day” came

took on greater importance after American losses in World War I. The U.S. government decided the day would

remember American casualties in any war, conflict or military action. People visit cemeteries and war memorials on this day. A special

about in 1882 but was not widely accepted until after World War II. The name became

ceremony takes place at Arlington Cemetery in Washington D.C. All around the country, flags fly at half-mast until lunch time.

Memorial Day is a United States federal holiday. It commemorates the American men
SCRAMBLED SENTENCES
With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. States United a is Day Memorial holiday federal

2. country who died their women have serving

3. their they sacrifices for freedom remember made

4. People memorials war and cemeteries visit

5. - flags mast fly until at lunch half time

6. Memorial to history a quite is There Day

7. of soldiers slaves dozens Union The buried

8. New birthplace official the be to claims York

9. in official became name The 1967

10. be part of a three-day weekend the day should
DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A’s QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. __________________________________________

2. __________________________________________

3. __________________________________________

4. __________________________________________

5. __________________________________________

6. __________________________________________

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B’s QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. __________________________________________

2. __________________________________________

3. __________________________________________

4. __________________________________________

5. __________________________________________

6. __________________________________________
THE MEMORIAL DAY SURVEY

Write five questions about Memorial Day in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q.1.</th>
<th>STUDENT 1</th>
<th>STUDENT 2</th>
<th>STUDENT 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Q.2.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q.3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q.4.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q.5.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.
WRITING

Write about Memorial Day for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other’s work.

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
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______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google’s search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about Memorial Day. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Memorial Day. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.

   Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. POSTER: Make your own poster about Memorial Day. Write about what will happen on this day around the world.

   Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.