

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 / TAPESCRIPT

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 |
| 6. 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.

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.

servicing
visit
sacrifices
mast
greater
ceremony
federal
casualties

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 _____.

freed
accepted
quite
follow
part
dozens
change
official

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*.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

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 reefdmo
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

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () 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.
- (**1**) 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. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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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.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

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

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.