

Name: _____

Date: _____

Memorial Day

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions from the reading.



Memorial Day is a United States federal holiday observed on the last Monday of May. Formerly known as Decoration Day, it honors U.S. men and women who died while in the military service. First enacted to honor Union soldiers of the American Civil War it was expanded after World War I to include American casualties of any war or military action.

Many people observe this holiday by visiting cemeteries and memorials. A national moment of remembrance takes place at 3 p.m. local time. Another tradition is to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff from dawn until noon local time. Volunteers often place American flags on each grave site at National Cemeteries.

In addition to remembrance, Memorial Day is also used as a time for picnics, barbecues, family gatherings, and sporting events. Some Americans view Memorial Day as the unofficial beginning of summer and Labor Day as the unofficial end of the season.

1. **Is Memorial Day the beginning or end of summer?** _____
2. **What was the original name for Memorial Day?** _____
3. **What day is Memorial Day observed?** _____
4. **What does Memorial Day honor?** _____
5. **How is the flag flown on Memorial Day?** _____

