

Do you ever find yourself dreading the little holidays? You don't want to rob your students of the FUN of chubby groundhogs, lacy hearts and lucky shamrocks but you can't fathom missing another day of actually TEACHING them! Worry no more!

This resource was designed to be used as a simple way to have a bit of fun with Memorial Day while still working on pertinent literacy skills.

This ready-to-print, easy-to-implement FACT PACK includes:

~Two pages of Informational Text with five comprehension questions each {pages 4-6}

~Five pages of Writing Prompts with two different levels of paper {pages 7-17}

~One Crossword Puzzle {18-19}

Also available:

[St Patrick's Day Fun Pack](#)

[Winter Holidays Fun Pack](#)

[Valentine's Day Fun Pack](#)

Thanks!

the **WOLFe** Pack 

WHAT IS MEMORIAL DAY?

MEMORIAL DAY is a **FEDERAL** holiday set aside to honor and **MOURN** any military personnel *who died while serving* in the United States Armed Forces.

Because it is a federal holiday, post offices and other non-essential federal offices, as well as banks, schools and the stock market, are usually closed on **MEMORIAL DAY**.

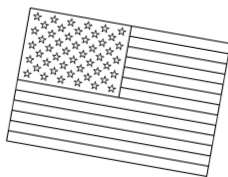
To date, more than 1.3 million military personnel *have died while serving* in the Armed Forces. Each **MEMORIAL DAY**, many people visit cemeteries and **MEMORIALS** of loved ones *who died while serving* to pay their respects by placing flags and flowers. The practice of leaving flowers at soldiers' graves dates back to the Civil War.

MEMORIAL DAY is now observed on the last Monday in May, though for over 100 years, it was observed on May 30, no matter on which day of the week that day fell. What's the date of **MEMORIAL DAY** this year?

MEMORIAL DAY IS NOT ...

...the day to celebrate *current* military personnel; that's Armed Forces Day.

...the day to honor anybody who has *served in the military in the past*; that's Veteran's Day.



WORDS to KNOW

FEDERAL:
pertaining to the national government
{not the state}

MOURN:
to express sorrow or grief

MEMORIAL:
monument created to preserve a memory

1. Memorial Day is a ___ holiday.

federal ☆

state ☆

city ☆

2. Memorial Day is a holiday celebrating ___ personnel who died while serving.

police ☆

military ☆

medical ☆

3. Many people visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day to place flags and ___.

ribbons ☆

flowers ☆

photos ☆

4. Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday in ___.

March ☆

April ☆

May ☆

5. Many people confuse the reason for Memorial Day with Veteran's Day and Armed Forces Day. Why do you think that is?

FUN FACTS

about

MEMORIAL DAY

MEMORIAL DAY is the unofficial start of summer while Labor Day is the unofficial end.



MEMORIAL DAY was previously called Decoration Day.



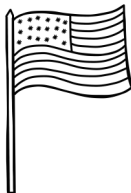
More than 20 towns across the USA claim to be the birthplace of **MEMORIAL DAY** but.....

..... only the tiny town of Waterloo, New York, has been declared the official birthplace of **MEMORIAL DAY**.

For more than 100 years, the world's oldest auto race, the Indianapolis 500, has been held on the Sunday before **MEMORIAL DAY**.



The flag should be flown at half-staff from sunrise until only noon on **MEMORIAL DAY**. Then it should be raised briskly to the top of the staff until sunset, in honor of the nation's battle heroes.



1. Memorial Day is the unofficial start of ____.

summer



spring



winter



2. Memorial Day was previously called ____ Day.

Veteran's



Military



Decoration



3. ____ towns claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day but only Waterloo, ____ officially is.

20+ CA



40+/NM



20+/NY



4. A famous ____ takes place on the Sunday before Memorial Day each year.

the Indianapolis 500



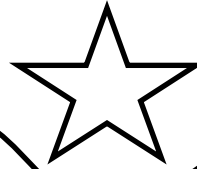
concert



auto race



5. Describe how flags should be displayed on Memorial Day. Why do you think those are the expectations?

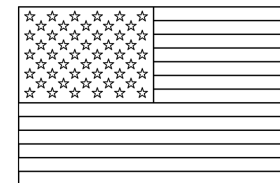


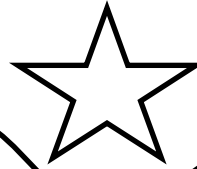
**Does your family have any members who have died while serving in the military?
If so, write a short paragraph about that person's service.
If not, ask your parents if you can do some research to find somebody who did.**

preview

preview

preview





Because it's a federal holiday, many people do not go to work on Memorial Day.

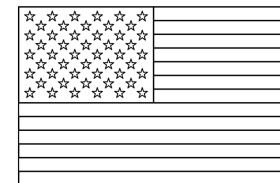
Does your family have any special plans for Memorial Day?

If so, write about that. If not, write about what you would like to do!

preview

preview

preview





- down** ↓
1. Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday in ____.
 2. Memorial Day is a ____ holiday.
 7. Memorial Day is the unofficial start of summer.
 8. The ____ 500 is on the Sunday before Memorial Day.

1. ____ honors military personnel who dies while serving in the armed forces.
 2. ____ should fly at half-mast only until noon on Memorial Day.
 3. Memorial Day used to be called ____ Day.
 4. ____, New York is the official birthplace of Memorial Day.
 5. Memorial Day is set aside to ____ those who died while serving in the armed forces.
 6. Many people go to cemeteries to place ____ and flags on Memorial Day.
- **across**

MEMORIAL DAY CROSSWORD

