

Summary: National Holidays

Holidays in History

National holidays help us remember our history. They honor important people and events. On national holidays, we think about our rights and freedoms.

Memorial Day is the last Monday in May. It is a day to honor people who died during war. Many people celebrate it by going to religious services or parades. Veterans Day is November 11, the same day World War I ended in 1918. Veterans Day honors all veterans, or people who served in the armed forces. Many people celebrate by attending parades.

Independence Day

Independence Day celebrates the idea of liberty and the Declaration of Independence. We celebrate the Fourth of July as the country's birthday. Many people show patriotism by hanging the American flag and with parades and fireworks.

Honoring People

Martin Luther King Day and Presidents' Day honor people who worked for freedom. Martin Luther King, Jr. worked for equal rights for African Americans in a peaceful way. He led marches and gave speeches. Martin Luther King Day is the third Monday of January. Some people celebrate it by having peace marches.

Presidents' Day honors George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Washington led the fight for our freedom from Great Britain. Lincoln worked to end slavery. We celebrate Presidents' Day on the third Monday in February.

Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

honor *verb*, to show respect

liberty *noun*, freedom

patriotism *noun*, love for your country

After You Read

REVIEW Why is it important to celebrate national holidays?

Highlight three sentences that tell why we celebrate national holidays.

REVIEW What important idea do we celebrate on Independence Day?

Circle the sentence that tells what idea we celebrate on Independence Day.

REVIEW In what ways have some of our leaders worked for fairness? Underline two sentences that tell how Dr. King worked for equal rights. Draw a box around two sentences that tell what Washington and Lincoln did.