


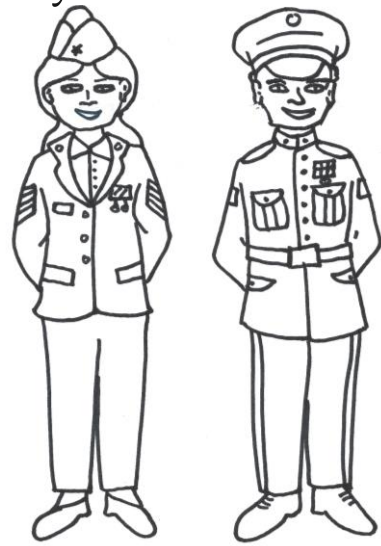
A History of Memorial Day



Memorial Day is an American holiday that honors the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. In 1868 an organization of northern veterans, called The Grand Army of the Republic, wanted a way to honor Union soldiers who had died in the Civil War, and began putting flowers on their graves. This became known as Decoration Day and was celebrated on May 30. At the first Decoration Day service, President Garfield gave a speech at Arlington National Cemetery while the 20,000 Civil War graves were decorated with flowers by 5,000 participants. The commemoration on May 30th was continued each year in the North, with states making it an official state holiday. In the South states had their own days of remembrance, each on separate days of the year.

Over time, the holiday became known as Memorial Day, and after World War I ended in 1919, people began observing the holiday as a way to honor all soldiers who were lost in battle from any American war. In 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act in order to create three-day weekends for federal employees. This moved Memorial Day to the last Monday in May each year. When the law took effect in 1971, Memorial Day also became an official federal holiday.

Today, many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, flying flags, holding family gatherings and participating in parades, which often involve military processions by veterans. Memorial Day weekend has also come to be considered as the unofficial start of summer.



Memorial Day Timeline



Cut out strips and glue onto the following page next to the year each event happened.

Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act in order to create three-day weekends for federal employees.

Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, flying flags, holding family gatherings and participating in parades.

The Grand Army of the Republic, wanted a way to honor Union soldiers who had died in the Civil War

The Civil War was fought to end slavery.

World War 1 ended.

Memorial Day also became an official federal holiday.

Memorial Day Timeline



**1861-
1865**

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1868

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1919

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1968

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1971

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Today

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Memorial Day Word Jumble



Garfield, Union Army, Civil War, Arlington, Federal, Military,
Memorial, Decoration, American, Soldiers

wliirvac

drefale

cdeartooni

losdsrie

yaimlirt

ralfedig

naloigtrn

amoemlir

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Memorial Day Word Search

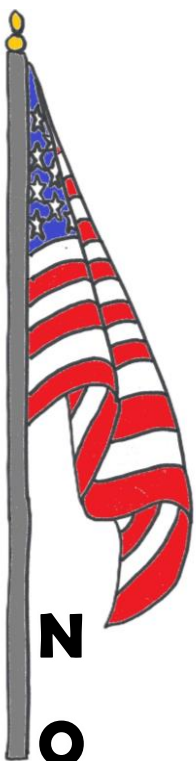


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R	S	R	D	F	N	G	H	J	E	K
L	G	A	R	F	I	E	L	D	Z	L
I	A	T	A	C	O	X	E	E	A	A
N	X	I	W	V	N	R	C	C	S	I
G	C	L	L	B	A	D	V	O	D	R
T	V	I	I	L	R	S	B	R	F	O
O	B	M	V	D	M	W	N	A	G	M
N	N	R	I	F	Y	Q	K	T	H	E
W	M	T	C	Y	U	I	O	I	P	M
E	Q	S	R	E	I	D	L	O	S	L
R	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	J	K

Garfield
Union Army
Civil War
Arlington
Federal

Military
Memorial
Decoration
American
Soldiers

Help children remember which holiday is when with this simple trick:



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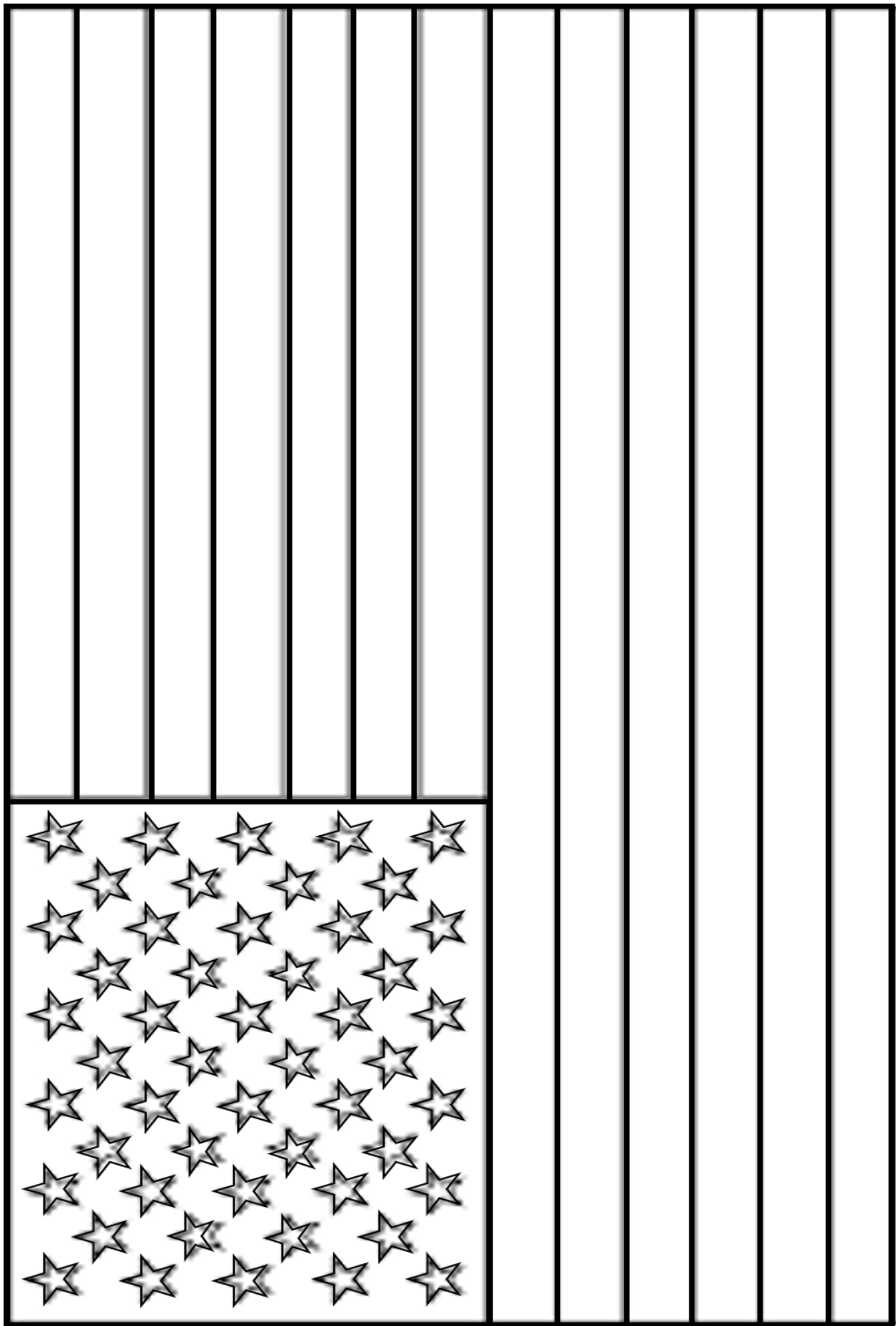
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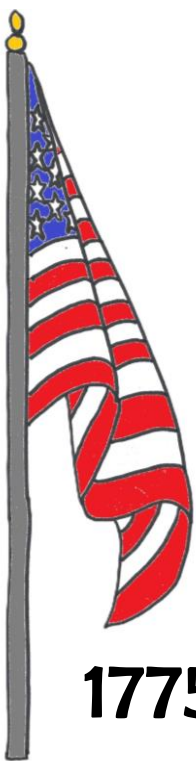
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List of American Wars



1775-1783	American Revolution
1812-1815	War of 1812
1816-1848	Mexican-American War
1861-1865	Civil War
1898	Spanish-American War
1917-1918	World War I
1941-1945	World War II
1950-1953	Korean War
1965-1975	Vietnam War
1990-1991	Gulf War
2001-2021	Afghanistan-Iraq War

