

Name _____

Date _____



Memorial Day

Today we're going to talk about Memorial Day...in just a minute.

A lot of people know Memorial Day as the unofficial start of summer—beach trips, barbeques, warm weather. But the holiday itself is a day to honor those who have died in American wars. Memorial Day was first observed during the Civil War and was originally called Decoration Day. People would visit the graves of those killed in battle and decorate them with flowers.

After World War I, Decoration Day was renamed Memorial Day. It became a day to honor those who had died in all US wars. Since 1971, the holiday has been celebrated on the last Monday of May.

Today, we celebrate with parades, flowers, and more serious forms of remembrance like flying flags at half-staff until noon. You might also see yellow ribbons and red poppies, two common symbols of remembrance associated with the holiday.

Each year, the president visits Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day to pay respect to fallen soldiers by laying a wreath at what's known as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

What are some other ways you can honor those who have died in American wars?