

Name _____

Date _____



Memorial Day

"The Last Monday in May"

It's late May. The sun is shining. We don't have school on Monday. What's that about?

Memorial Day, summer starts unofficially,
And we have barbeques or head to the beach.
But last year, I noticed yellow ribbons on trees,
And I saw someone selling flowers on the street,
And my sister told me about Memorial Day:
Ribbons, flowers and flags are ways we celebrate.
And in many towns around the United States,
People also celebrate by having parades.
She explained to me that a memorial reminds
Us of an event in which people have died,
And on Memorial Day, we celebrate and honor
Any member of the US military, any soldier,
Who died in wars protecting the US.
They lost their lives, but they gave their best.
So every year on the last Monday in May,
We remember fallen soldiers and the sacrifice they made.

The last Monday in May,
We put flowers on the graves
To honor all of those who gave
Their lives, this is Memorial Day.
The sacrifice they made,
So you and I would be OK,
We honor all of those who gave

Their lives, this is Memorial Day.

I asked my sister about the holiday's history,
But she didn't know, so I went to the library.
In the 1800s, during the Civil War,
Women went to cemeteries and left flowers for
Soldiers who had died, and that tradition
Was called Decoration Day, but then, listen,
When World War I took many lives as well,
People wanted to honor those soldiers that fell.
So they started honoring all fallen soldiers,
Not just lost when the Civil War was over.
And eventually this changed Decoration Day
So that it became an inclusive holiday
For any member of the US military
Who lost their life while fighting bravely.
Congress made this official in '71,
And Memorial Day was officially set up.
Now annually, the president and VP
Lay a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery.
And on that day, I might be having summer fun,
But I remember lost soldiers, every one.

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