



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# MEMORIAL DAY



## DIRECTIONS

Choose one of the symbols from the list below. Write a short paragraph explaining how and why that symbol is used on Memorial Day.

- yellow ribbons
- red poppies
- American flags
- flowers and wreaths

**Yellow ribbons** are tied around trees as a sign of remembrance for fallen soldiers or as a celebration of soldiers coming home. The symbol's popularity came from the hit song "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Old Oak Tree." After the song came out, tying ribbons around trees became a common symbol of Memorial Day.

On Memorial Day, **flowers** are placed on graves in bouquets or woven into **wreath**. People have placed flowers on graves in remembrance for a long time. They became strongly linked to Memorial Day after General John A. Logan said veterans should decorate graves with "the choicest flowers of springtime."

**Red poppies** are often placed in jacket lapels or sold individually on Memorial Day. The tradition of wearing red poppies comes from the poem "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae. The poem describes poppies growing on graves, and after World War I, it gained popularity.

**American flags** are placed on graves, hung outside of houses, and raised on flagpoles. The American flag represents the sacrifice that soldiers have made for their country. On Memorial Day, the flag hangs at half-staff until noon to honor those who have died.