

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is right around the corner. This year it falls on Monday, May 31st.

Most kids know very little about Memorial Day except that it is a day off from school and that it is typically the last holiday before summer vacation.

Memorial Day has been celebrated in the U.S. since 1868. At that time it was called Decoration Day and was celebrated on May 30th each year. The holiday commemorates U.S. men and women who died while in military service. The name Memorial Day was not used until 1882 and did not become the official name by Federal Law until 1967. The holiday was always celebrated on May 30th until 1968, when congress passed the Uniform Holidays Bill, moving Memorial Day to the last Monday of May.

1. From the information given above, for how many consecutive years was Memorial Day (or Decoration Day) celebrated on May 30th?

May 2017							MAY 2018							2019 MAY							May 2020							2021 MAY							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
	1	2	3	4	5	6			1	2	3	4	5	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
28	29	30	31				27	28	29	30	31			26	27	28	29	30	31			31							30	31					

2. For any given year what is the earliest date that Memorial Day can fall on? Why can't it fall earlier than this date?

3. Fill in the table below with the dates that Memorial Day will fall on over the following years. Memorial Day falls on the last Monday of May. Remember, leap years are the years that are a multiple of four.

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030

4. From 2021 to 2030 what fraction of Memorial Days are celebrated on the original holiday of May 30th.
5. Find a pattern that allows you to determine the date that Memorial Day falls on in any future years. Explain your pattern/method.

6. Determine the date that Memorial Day will fall on in 2035.

Remember, the reason we have this holiday and day off is to honor all the men and women who have died in military service. The two worst wars in terms of loss of life were the Civil War and World War II. There were about 750,000 deaths in service during the Civil War and 405,399 deaths in service during World War II. There have been in the neighborhood of 1,354,664 deaths of U.S. service men and women in all of the wars combined (up until 2019).

7. About what percent of these deaths occurred during either the Civil War or World War II?

8. There were about 25,000 deaths in the American Military in the Revolutionary War. About what percent of the 2,853,000 deaths occurred during the Revolutionary War?

9. There were about 116,516 deaths in the American Military during World War I. About what percent of the 2,853,000 deaths occurred during World War I?

10. There were about 405,399 deaths in the American Military during World War II. About what percent of the 2,853,000 deaths occurred during World War II?

11. Make mathematical comparisons and observations in regards to your answers from problems 7 – 10. What do you notice when comparing the U.S. casualty total from each war? Why might have one of the wars had such a higher casualty total than the other wars?

War	Deaths
Revolutionary War (1775 – 1783)	25,000
Civil War (1861 – 1865)	655,000
World War I (1914 – 1918)	116,516
World War II (1939 – 1945)	405,399

When you have the day off on Monday, please remember why we have the day off. Whether you know it or not, you probably have had an ancestor who lost his or her life fighting in a war.

Sources: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_Day
http://www.rumela.com/events/memorial_day_wars.htm
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_military_casualties_of_war