



## A Day for Remembering



photo by U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jose A. Torres Jr.

### Mini Fact:

President Obama places a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns on Memorial Day 2014.

Americans have a special holiday coming up next week, Memorial Day. Many people think of it as a time to get together with friends and kick off the summer season. But this holiday has a more serious meaning, too.

A memorial helps keep memories alive. It reminds us of people and events. Have you visited memorials in your city or on your travels?

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday in May. This year, it falls on May 29. On that day, we honor the memories of men and women who have died while serving our country.

### Early beginnings

Memorial Day began after the Civil War. Veterans of the war called it "Decoration Day." They wanted Americans to remember fallen soldiers by decorating their graves with flowers, flags and wreaths.

After World War I, the holiday came to honor soldiers who lost their lives in all of America's wars.

In many cities and towns, veterans and active service members march in parades or attend special events for Memorial Day.



As a sign of mourning and respect, the American flag is flown at half-staff until noon on Memorial Day.

photo courtesy NPS

### Symbols of remembrance

We have different symbols for remembering our service members at Memorial Day and throughout the year.

#### • Flags-in

Each year just before Memorial Day, soldiers of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, also known as "The Old Guard," place a flag in front of each grave marker at Arlington National Cemetery. The tradition is known as "flags-in."



photo courtesy Department of Defense

#### • The burial flag

When a veteran of the U.S. armed forces dies, his or her family is entitled to a special flag that can be used to drape the casket. It is furnished to honor the memory of the veteran's military service to our country.



photo courtesy U.S. Marine Corps

You may see special markers on gravesites in your town's cemetery showing that a person served in our armed forces. This is another way we honor veterans.

#### • Tomb of the Unknowns

The Tomb of the Unknowns monument at Arlington National Cemetery contains the remains of a soldier from World War I. Close by, unidentified service members from World War II and the Korean War are laid to rest.

These solemn gravesites are symbols of all the soldiers who were lost in these wars.

On Memorial Day, the president of the United States usually attends a ceremony at Arlington to lay a wreath at the tomb.

#### • Poppies

In 1915, a professor in Georgia was inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields." Moina Michael decided to wear red poppies on each Memorial Day. She sold the flowers to friends to raise money for servicemen. The red poppy became a symbol of Memorial Day.



### In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

### Resources



#### On the Web:

- [www.arlingtoncemetery.mil](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil)
- [bit.ly/MPTomb](http://bit.ly/MPTomb)
- [youtu.be/B-GU39Owwho](http://youtu.be/B-GU39Owwho)

#### At the library:

- "Brave Like Me" by Barbara Kerley
- "Memorial Day" by Clara Cella

## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of Memorial Day are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



AMERICAN, ARLINGTON,  
CEMETERY, COUNTRY,  
DECORATION, FLAGS,  
HOLIDAY, HONOR,  
INFANTRY, MEMORIAL,  
PARADE, POPPIES,  
REGIMENT, SERVICE,  
TOMB, UNKNOWN,  
VETERANS, WAR,  
WORLD.

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

## Cook's Corner

### French Bread Pizza Snacks

#### You'll need:

- 1 (4-inch-long) piece French bread, halved lengthwise
- 1/4 cup prepared pasta or pizza sauce
- 1/2 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese

- 2 teaspoons grated parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh basil



#### What to do:

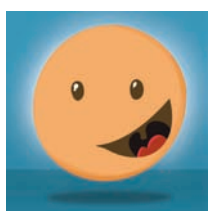
1. Preheat oven's broiler and line baking sheet with aluminum foil.
2. Arrange bread halves on baking sheet. Top each half with sauce, mozzarella and parmesan cheeses. Place baking sheet under broiler and broil for 2 to 3 minutes, until cheese melts.
3. Remove pizzas from oven and top with basil. Serve or cool slightly and wrap to eat later. Serves 2.

Adapted from "The Robin Takes 5 Cookbook for Busy Families" with permission from Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com).

\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

## 7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.



1. tiny bit of bread (5) \_\_\_\_\_
2. what you clean carpets with (6) \_\_\_\_\_
3. foolish (5) \_\_\_\_\_
4. sound after lightning (7) \_\_\_\_\_
5. it makes bread dough rise (5) \_\_\_\_\_
6. bird on a farm (7) \_\_\_\_\_
7. baby frog (7) \_\_\_\_\_

UN	LY	ST	CU
TAD	KEN	MB	SIL
DER	POLE	YEA	TH
UM	CHIC	VA	CRU

Answers: crumb, vacuum, silly, thunder, yeast, chicken, tadpole.

## Mini Jokes



**Hannah:** What was the heroic daisy awarded?

**Harry:** The petal of honor!

## Eco Note



Why is protecting our water so important?

Our planet is mostly water. Oceans cover most of Earth, along with lakes, rivers, streams and even underground water. We need to keep our water clean and healthy so that people, plants and animals will always have water to drink, and so that fish and other creatures will have a place to live.

adapted with permission from "The New 50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth" by The Earthworks Group, Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com)

## For later:

How does your family celebrate Memorial Day? Research special events you might attend at a local military cemetery.

## Teachers:

For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: [bbs.amuniversal.com/Everyone\\_content/Teaching\\_Guides/The\\_Mini\\_Page/](http://bbs.amuniversal.com/Everyone_content/Teaching_Guides/The_Mini_Page/)

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