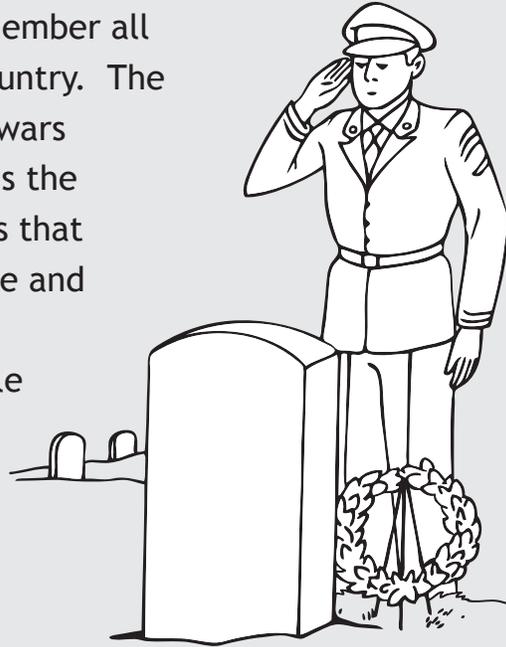


Memorial Day

The Last Monday in May

Memorial Day is the day on which we remember all the soldiers who died in service to our country. The United States has been engaged in many wars since the beginning of its history. There is the saying, “freedom isn’t free.” That means that sometimes we have to fight to remain free and to protect our way of life. The men and women of the armed forces are the people who fight these battles, so others don’t have to. Sometimes, they die in the line of duty. On Memorial Day, we honor and acknowledge their sacrifices.



Summary of Activities

Reading: Literature

Freedom Is Silent—poem with comprehension questions

Reading: Informational Text

Arlington National Cemetery—nonfiction passage with a writing activity

Writing

The Importance of Memorial Day—activity in which students write about the importance of Memorial Day

Speaking & Listening

Ronald Reagan’s Speech—Have students listen to and watch President Ronald Reagan’s Memorial Day speech of 1984 given at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

Vocabulary: armed forces, casualties, heritage, military, sacrifice, tomb



Name _____

Date _____

Freedom Is Silent

Directions: Read the poem. Then answer the questions on page 60.

*In some songs, they say
To let freedom ring,
But sometimes the freedom is silent.
No ringing bells,
No rousing cheers,
No bullets,
No bombs,
And no Bills of Rights.
Here,
In this place,
Just the rustling wind
Blows through the trees
Down across the resting places
Of those one-time soldiers.
Here,
In this place,
Freedom is silent.
Here,
In this place,
Freedom is still.
Here,
In this place,
Soldiers of every era
And of every war
Lay silent side by side
In a united state.
Freedom can ring everywhere else
Because here,
In this place,
Freedom is silent.*



Name _____

Date _____

Arlington National Cemetery

Directions: Read the passage. Then complete the activity.

Arlington National Cemetery is a national military cemetery located in Arlington, Virginia. The cemetery is 624 acres and is situated directly across from the Potomac River. It was established in 1864, toward the end of the Civil War, and is the final resting place for casualties of war. Currently, there are more than 300,000 graves in the cemetery.

Arlington is divided into 70 different sections. There are sections for fallen soldiers from the Civil War, World Wars I and II, and the Vietnam War. Section 60 is the place where combatants from the Global War on Terror are buried. These would include fallen veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars.

But soldiers are not the only people who lose their lives during a war. There are others, such as doctors, nurses, and military chaplains. There are sections for these people, too.

Many monuments and memorials are in the cemetery. For instance, there are two memorials in honor of the crews of the space shuttles *Challenger* and *Columbia*. The crew members onboard both of these spacecrafts lost their lives due to spacecraft malfunctioning.

One of the most famous monuments in the cemetery is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Sometimes, when soldiers die in war, they can't be identified. When that happens, they are returned to Arlington and buried close by this monument. Inscribed on the monument are these words:

"Here rests in honored glory
An American soldier known but to God."

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is guarded every minute of every day.

Several U.S. presidents are also buried at Arlington, including John F. Kennedy. His grave is marked by an eternal flame. This flame was ignited on the day of his funeral and has remained lit every day since.

Because Memorial Day is the day on which we remember and honor all of those people who died in military service to their country, on this holiday, a single American flag is placed on every grave in the cemetery.



Activity: Arlington National Cemetery is a very important part of the heritage and culture of the United States. On the back of the page, write down three questions you have about the cemetery. What would you like to investigate further?

Answer Key

New Year's Day Parades (page 7)

1. Designers can't decorate the floats too far in advance because flowers are perishable. Flowers can't live for very long once the blooms are cut away from the stems.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Answers will vary.

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom (pages 12–13)

1. b
2. b
3. c

The Underappreciated Groundhog (pages 16–17)

1. Answers will vary.
2. a
3. Opossum: "With that long, skinny snout and those beady eyes, he'll scare the entire town right out of their pants!"

Everybody Loves Chocolate! (pages 22–23)

1. b
2. It takes a lot of people and many hours to harvest the pods and produce the chocolate.
3. c

Zoo Times Exclusive (pages 26–27)

1. a
2. c
3. Of course, the hyenas are banned from voting because of their refusal to refrain from hurling insults at candidates and voters.

Lucky Charms (page 33)

1. b
2. Answers will vary.
3. c

Irish Soda Bread (pages 38–39)

1. One of the things that makes this bread so unique is that, traditionally, it is not cooked in an oven but on a griddle or in a large cast-iron pan. Instead of yeast, baking soda is used as a leavening agent in Irish soda bread.
2. c
3. Yes, they added a cross mark to the bread to ward off evil spirits and to protect their houses.

The Visitors from Colden 4 (pages 42–43)

1. a
2. c
3. c

Mariachi Music, Olé! (page 50)

1. c
2. b
3. a

Best Animal Moms (pages 55–56)

1. The average calf weighs about 250 pounds at birth, and this is after a 22-month gestation—the longest pregnancy in the animal kingdom.
2. Answers will vary.
3. c

Freedom Is Silent (pages 59–60)

1. Answers will vary.
2. c
3. Answers will vary.

Father's Day Facts (page 66)

1. Here are some facts and figures about fathers and things related to Father's Day.
2. b
3. Opinion; explanations will vary.

Islam (page 71)

1. c
2. b
3. c

Fort McHenry (pages 77–78)

1. Another issue was that American merchant seamen were being captured by the British on the high seas and forced to fight in the British Navy.
2. b
3. Answers will vary.

Labor in the United States (page 84)

1. b
2. There was a time when there were no laws that prohibited children from working for pay. Now, there are very strict laws regarding the employment of people less than 18 years of age.
3. Answers will vary.

Columbus's Cats (pages 87–88)

1. They were really tired.
2. b
3. They were good at sneaking around and not being noticed.

A Brief History of Monsters (pages 95–96)

1. They both originated in books.
2. b
3. a

A Song from War (pages 99–100)

1. Somber and serious; answers will vary.
2. Answers will vary; having to go to war and fight
3. b

The Great Turkey Round-up (pages 104–105)

1. That's when people don't have enough to eat.
2. There is a large supply of free turkeys. They are donated to a food bank.
3. Drawings will vary.

How to Roast a Thanksgiving Turkey (pages 106–107)

8, 7, 14, 15, 9, 13, 12, 3, 10, 1, 4, 5, 2, 6, 11

Hanukkah Traditions (page 112)

1. b
2. a
3. Hanukkah is the celebration of a miracle in which a small supply of oil kept lamps burning in the temple.

Christmas Cookies (page 118)

1. mouthwatering, delicious, scrumptious, flavorful, delectable
2. c
3. b

Nguzo Saba: The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa (pages 122–123)

1. Answers will vary.
2. b
3. c