





Memorial Day PowerPoint Teacher Guide:

- Introduction: 5 minutes
 - Slide 1: Discuss the guiding question
 - Memorial Day: Why is the last Monday in May a holiday?
- Activity: 15-20 minutes
 - Use the PPT Teacher guide to go through the PowerPoint and discuss information about Memorial Day, why it is a holiday and who we are honoring.
 - o As you go through the PowerPoint, give students time to fill in their worksheets.
 - The headings in the worksheet do not directly match the PowerPoint headlines. Use this guide:
 - "History": Slides 2 and 3
 - "Meaning": Slides 4 6, 8
 - "Honoring": Slide 4
 - "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier": Slide 9
 - "What does Memorial Day mean to me?" is a personal reflection question, but can be related to Slide 10
- Reflection & Conclusion: 5 minutes
 - After students have had a chance to answer the reflection question (What does Memorial Day mean to me?), students can volunteer to share answers with the whole class or share with a partner or small group.

Slide Text Screenshot Memorial Day 1 Why is the last Monday in May a holiday? MEMORIAL DAY Teacher Guide: Notes for Lecture and Discussion The last Monday in May is a holiday in the United States. Why is it a holiday? What are we observing or remembering? Are there any other holidays that are similar to it? How do you observe Memorial Day? Caption: Graves at Arlington National Cemetery are decorated with flags for Memorial Day 2019. (ANC/Elizabeth Fraser)







Slide Text Screenshot 2 Origins

- Originally called "Decoration Day"
- A day to remember loved ones who died in the Civil War (1861-1865)
- Graves decorated with flowers or wreaths

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Teacher Guide: Notes for Lecture and Discussion

The Civil War changed life in the United States. Slavery, which Americans had argued about since before the Revolutionary War, finally ended. Millions of formerly enslaved Americans were now free. Hundreds of thousands of Americans were dead. Many Americans now lived near battlefields or cemeteries that held Civil War dead. Most families had lost loved ones: brothers, fathers, uncles, cousins, friends.

In communities across the country, people responded by decorating the graves of Civil War dead in the springtime. Decorations usually included flowers.

Caption:

A group of women and children gathered daisies for Decoration Day on May 30, 1899. (LOC/Frances Benjamin Johnston)



Slide Text Screenshot

3 Observed Nationally

- Ceremonies began in many different communities shortly after the Civil War.
- First officially observed at Arlington National Cemetery in 1868.
- Memorial Day became a national holiday in 1971.



Teacher Guide: Notes for Lecture and Discussion

In addition to decorating graves, some communities organized parades or ceremonies featuring speeches by local politicians.

Memorial Day has many origin stories. A few are given below and, depending on time, can be shared with students.









- 1865, Charleston, South Carolina: During the Civil War, 260 Union soldiers died in a Confederate prison in Charleston, South Carolina. The prison was a converted race track. The dead prisoners were buried in a mass grave behind the grandstands. When Confederate troops left Charleston, freed African Americans dug up the bodies and reburied them in a new cemetery as a sign of respect. On May 1, 1865, a crowd of 10,000 brought flowers and staged a parade at the race track honoring the "Martyrs of the Race Course."
- 1868, Arlington National Cemetery: Major General John A. Logan declared May 30 as a nationwide day of remembrance, with a large ceremony held at Arlington National Cemetery. James Garfield (a Civil War veteran who would become president in 1881) spoke at the event at Arlington, and 5,000 people decorated the graves of U.S. service members buried there. Today, every gravesite in the cemetery is decorated before Memorial Day with a small American flag.
- 1966, Waterloo, New York: In 1966, Congress recognized Waterloo, New York as the birthplace of Memorial Day because of the annual, community-wide observation it has held since 1866.
- Other cities also claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866.

Memorial Day observances at Arlington National Cemetery include the placement of flags at gravesites, families visiting and decorating headstones, official ceremonies, and flower layings. (ANC/Elizabeth Fraser, 2018 and 2019)

(Note: there are 4 images, but only 1 caption)



Slide Text Screenshot

4 Meaning

 Honors all those who have made "the ultimate sacrifice" and died while serving their country



Teacher Guide: Notes for Lecture and Discussion

Memorial Day began as a day for remembering and honoring those who died in the Civil War. Over the years, its meaning expanded to cover all Americans who have died in military conflicts or during military service. While many people today focus on Memorial Day as the unofficial start of summer, its original purpose can still be seen in the decorated national cemeteries and the local commemorations of many communities.

• How does your family or community observe Memorial Day?









- Does your family or community have any Memorial Day traditions?
- Do any of those traditions make you think about the sacrifices people have made for the United States?
- What can you do on Memorial Day to remember the purpose of this holiday?
 - Answer may include putting up a flag, visiting a cemetery, reading about a battle, listening to stories of someone who served in the military, etc.

A funeral with U.S. Army Honor Guard is conducted at Arlington National Cemetery. (ANC/Elizabeth Fraser)



Slide Text Screenshot

5 Who Serves?

- Veterans are men and women who have served in the military.
- There are six main U.S. military branches.

Note: There are no captions for the seals of the different Service Branches.



Teacher Guide: Notes for Lecture and Discussion

- Veterans have served "on active duty." This means they were in the military for their job full time.
- The branches are Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard.

Questions:

- Who can serve in the military?
 - o Anyone who meets age and mental and physical fitness requirements
 - o Each branch has specific requirements, which are linked below.
- Have women always been able to serve?
 - No, but women have always supported military service in different ways, including working as cooks, spies, or nurses.
 - Some women even disguised themselves as men in order to fight!
 - Women first officially enlisted in the military during World War I (Navy Yeoman F), and during World War II, more opportunities for women opened up with the WAC, WAVES and other women's services. Women had also served as nurses.







- Eventually, women became part of the regular military and the roles in which they are able to serve have expanded.
- Have racial minorities always been able to serve?
 - No. Sometimes they were:
 - barred from service (for example, African Americans couldn't serve at the beginning of the Civil War)
 - subject to quotas (the number who could serve was limited),
 - barred from specific types of jobs (for example, at the start of World War II, African Americans weren't allowed to be pilots)
 - required to serve in racially segregated units

Army Requirements: https://www.goarmy.com/learn/army-requirements-and-qualifications.html

Navy Requirements: https://www.navy.com/joining-navy-if-you-havent-served

Marine Corps Requirements: https://www.marines.com/becoming-a-marine/overview.html Air Force Requirements: https://www.airforce.com/how-to-join/prepare-for-success/meet-

requirements

Space Force Requirements: https://www.airforce.com/spaceforce

Coast Guard Requirements: https://www.gocoastguard.com/faq/what-are-the-qualifications-to-join-

the-coast-guard

Slide Text Screenshot

6 U.S Military Branches

Army:

- Largest and oldest branch
- Provide ground forces

Navy:

Protection on the sea

Marine Corps:

• Fast sea and land deployment

Air Force:

• Provide air power and support

Space:

- Newest branch
- Protect American interests in space

Coast Guard:

• Guard American harbors and coast

Army: Ordinate and individual in

Teacher Guide: Notes for Lecture and Discussion

- What are the main U.S military branches?
 - o Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard
- How are they different from each other?
 - The Army provides ground forces: soldiers fight on land using armor (such as tanks), artillery, helicopters, etc. It's also the largest and oldest military branch.
 - The Navy operates on oceans and seas with ships of different sizes and submarines under water. Even during peacetime, it operates around the world to maintain and protect U.S. interests.
 - o The Marine Corps operates under the Department of the Navy, but is a separate organization. The Marines provide forces that can move quickly on land, sea or in the air. Their specialty is to assault, capture and control beachheads. To be self-sufficient in combat operations, the Marine Corps has its own air power.







- The Air Force provides support in the air. It uses fighter aircraft, tanker aircraft, bomber aircraft, transport aircraft, helicopters and drones. It can deliver forces anywhere in the world within hours. Before 1947, it was part of the Army.
- The Space Force was formed in 2019 to protect American interests in space and provide space capabilities to the other service branches. It operates under the Department of the Air Force.
- The Coast Guard stays close to the United States and keeps its ports and shorelines safe. It provides maritime safety and environmental support. During peacetime, the Coast Guard is part of the Department of Homeland Security. In a war, it could become part of the Navy.
- How are the branches similar?
 - There's overlap in the technology and transportation that different branches use. For instance, in addition to sailors and ships, the Navy also has pilots that fly planes from large ships. The Army also has airplanes, helicopters, and pilots. The Navy and the Coast Guard both have ships, etc.
 - They work together to keep the United States safe from countries, organizations, and people that might want to harm it.

Military personnel train in a variety of circumstances and locations. (Photos from U.S. Air Force, Department of Defense, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, 2015, 2019 and 2020)



Slide Text Screenshot National Cemeteries NATIONAL CEMETERIES

- Many veterans choose to be buried in a cemetery for military service members
- One example is Arlington National Cemetery, outside Washington, D.C.
- Is there a national cemetery near you?



Teacher Guide: Notes for Lecture and Discussion

The United States government first created national cemeteries during the Civil War. At that time, it was not considered an honor to be buried in a national cemetery. These cemeteries were used when people needed to be buried quickly after a battle, or when families didn't have enough money to pay for the burial or return of a loved one's remains.

This attitude soon changed, partly as a result of the popular Decoration Day/Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. It is now considered a great honor to be buried in a national cemetery like Arlington National Cemetery. National cemeteries have rules about who can be buried there.

To find a national, state, or tribal veterans cemetery in the U.S.: https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/listcem.asp

ANC is not part of the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) and has different eligibility requirements. More information can be found here: https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Funerals/Scheduling-a-Funeral/Establishing-Eligibility

Caption:

Headstones and columbarium niche covers at Arlington National Cemetery. (ANC/Elizabeth Fraser, 2018, 2019, and 2020)





Slide Text American Cemeteries Abroad

8

Some service members died abroad and are buried in special cemeteries in foreign countries



Teacher Guide: Notes for Lecture and Discussion

Most American military cemeteries in other countries are the final resting places of service members who died near those locations during World War I and World War II.

Locations include France, the United Kingdom, the Philippines, Belgium, Italy and Tunisia. These cemeteries are for U.S. military service members.







A federal agency, the American Battle Monuments Commission, manages these cemeteries, and also maintains American war memorials on foreign soil. For more information or to find instructional materials, see: https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials

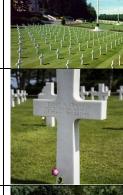
Caption:

Service members from World War I buried in Aisne-Marne American Cemetery in France. (Public Domain)



Caption:

A headstone in the Normandy American Cemetery in France, burial site of service members who died during World War II. (Pixabay, 2013)



Caption:

Stars of David mark the graves of Jewish service members at Normandy American Cemetery. (Pixabay, 2019)



Slide

Text

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

- "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier, known but to God."
- Located at Arlington National Cemetery
- Guarded 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, rain or shine, for over 80 years
- Tomb Guards show respect for fallen comrades

Screenshot TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER



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Teacher Guide: Notes for Lecture and Discussion

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is the final resting place for three American service members: one each from World War I, World War II and the Korean War.

- The Tomb is inscribed with the words, "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier, known but to God." No one knows the names of the people buried there. When they died, no one could identify them, so they couldn't be buried in a grave with their name. This used to happen to a lot of soldiers, but with advances in technology we're now able to identify the remains of those who die in war.
- The Tomb is at Arlington National Cemetery, which is in Virginia right outside of Washington, D.C.
- The Tomb is guarded every minute of every day by elite soldiers who volunteered and trained for this special job.
- The Tomb guards have to pass a lot of tests to qualify for the honor of serving at the Tomb. They work hard to make sure they can do their job perfectly in order to show respect for the soldiers buried there and others who never came home.





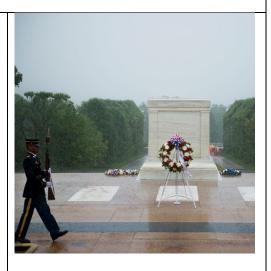


Questions:

- How do you know that the Tomb is a special place?
 - o It's guarded all of the time. The guards are chosen specially for the job and work hard in order to show respect for the Tomb and other soldiers.
- Why are there wreaths in the picture?
 - Wreaths and flowers are often used to decorate graves. The wreaths at the Tomb are laid by school groups, veterans' groups, foreign dignitaries and even the president of the United States.

Caption:

Soldiers guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier no matter the weather. Wreath-laying ceremonies are common. (ANC/Elizabeth Fraser)



Slide Text Screenshot

10

National Holidays

- National holidays give people a chance to honor others and to think about what it means to be an American
- What other American holidays do you observe or celebrate?



NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

- National holidays give people a chance to honor others and to thinl about what it means to be an
- What other American holidays do

Teacher Guide: Notes for Lecture and Discussion

Answers may include: Independence Day, Veterans Day, Labor Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day etc. While there are other state and federal holidays, only a few of them focus on what it means to be an American.







U.S. flags are hung in the Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery before Memorial Day and Veterans Day. (ANC/Elizabeth Fraser)



Slide Text Screenshot

11 Memorial Day: A Timeline

1861-1865: American Civil War

1865: Ceremony honoring dead Union veterans held by freed slaves in South Carolina

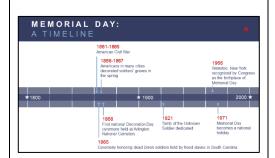
1866-1867: Americans in many cities decorated soldiers' graves in the spring

1868: First national Decoration Day ceremony held at Arlington National Cemetery

1921: Tomb of the Unknown Soldier dedicated

1966: Waterloo, New York recognized by Congress as the birthplace of Memorial Day

1971: Memorial Day becomes a national holiday



Teacher Guide: Notes for Lecture and Discussion

Optional: You can use this timeline to review the history of Memorial Day in the context of any events you may have studied in American history this year.

Questions:

- What stands out to you on this timeline?
 - Answers may include: how long it took for Memorial Day to become a national holiday, how soon after the Civil War people started decorating graves of fallen service members, etc.
- Some holidays, like Independence Day or Veterans Day, are always held on the same date. Why isn't Memorial Day always held on the same date?
 - Answers may include: it's not tied to a specific historic event like Independence Day or Veterans Day.







- In 1966, Congress recognized Waterloo, New York as the birthplace of Memorial Day. Do you think it matters who observed Memorial Day first?
 - Answers may include: It may not matter to most people, but it probably matters to the
 people in Waterloo, NY! Many communities develop local traditions that make the
 people feel connected to other people in their community.
 - Follow-up: What's a tradition in our community that you think other cities or states would appreciate or enjoy?

Additional Information about Timeline Events:

1861-1865: More Americans died during the Civil War than any other war or conflict the United States has been involved in.

1865: During the Civil War, 260 Union soldiers died in a Confederate prison in Charleston, South Carolina. The prison was a converted race track. The dead prisoners were buried in a mass grave behind the grandstands. When Confederate troops left Charleston, freed African Americans exhumed the mass grave and reinterred the bodies in a new cemetery. On May 1, 1865, a crowd of 10,000 brought flowers and staged a parade at the race track honoring the "Martyrs of the Race Course."

1866-1867: Spring Decoration Day observations occur in many cities. People would decorate graves with flowers and recite prayers. Over the years, these traditions became common throughout the country.

1868: Major General John A. Logan declared May 30 as a nationwide day of remembrance, with a ceremony held at Arlington National Cemetery. James Garfield (a Civil War veteran who would become president in 1881) spoke at the event at Arlington. 5,000 people decorated the graves of Union soldiers buried there. Today, the gravesite of every service member in the cemetery is decorated before Memorial Day with a small American flag.

1921: After World War I, the U.S. government created the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to give Americans a place to honor and remember military service members who died in the war but whose bodies weren't identified. The meaning of Memorial Day expanded as Americans honored those who died in conflicts after the Civil War.

1966: Congress recognized Waterloo, New York as the birthplace of Memorial Day because of the annual, community-wide observation it has held since 1866.

1971: When the U.S. Congress made Memorial Day a national holiday, it set the last Monday in May as the day of observation. While states and communities are not required to recognize federal holidays, Memorial Day is observed across the United States. At Arlington National Cemetery, U.S. Army soldiers decorate each gravesite with a small American flag. At the Memorial Amphitheater, a ceremony honors American veterans and service members. The president or his/her chosen representative usually attends and speaks at this ceremony.







Memorial Day

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Images:

Slide 1: Elizabeth Fraser, Flags-In 2019, May 23, 2019, Arlington National Cemetery. https://www.flickr.com/photos/arlingtonnatl/47932453322/in/album-72157708759598743/

Slide 2: Frances Benjamin Johnston, Daisies Gathered for Decoration Day, May 30, 1899, Library of Congress. https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3a07937/

Slide 3: Elizabeth Fraser, Flags-In 2019, May 23, 2019, Arlington National Cemetery. https://www.flickr.com/photos/arlingtonnatl/47932445182/in/album-72157708759598743/

Slide 3: Elizabeth Fraser, Memorial Day 2018, May 27, 2018, Arlington National Cemetery. https://www.flickr.com/photos/arlingtonnatl/40610718000/in/album-72157697331483635/

Slide 3: Elizabeth Fraser, Flags-In 2019, May 23, 2019, Arlington National Cemetery. https://www.flickr.com/photos/arlingtonnatl/41493089175/in/album-72157697331483635/

Slide 3: Elizabeth Fraser, National Memorial Day Observance at Arlington National Cemetery, May 27, 2019, Arlington National Cemetery. https://www.flickr.com/photos/arlingtonnatl/47945630287/in/album-72157708790418403/







Slide 4: Elizabeth Fraser, Full Honor Funeral of Former Secretary of the Army Togo D. West Jr., April 26, 2018, Arlington National Cemetery. https://www.flickr.com/photos/arlingtonnatl/41005914584/in/album-72157709726128756/

Slide 6: Emerson Nuñez, F-15E Strike Eagles Prepare to Receive Fuel, March 5, 2020, U.S. Air Force. https://www.af.mil/News/Photos.aspx?igphoto=2002264420

Slide 6: Unknown, Schofield Barracks East Range, Hawaii, Marcy 7, 2020, U.S. Department of Defense. https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002263037/

Slide 6: Cody Beam, In Formation, Philippine Sea, March 4, 2020, U.S. Department of Defense. https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002264003/

Slide 6: Jacob Wilson, 200309-M-TL103-0009, March 4, 2020, U.S. Marine Corps. https://www.marines.mil/Photos/?igphoto=2002262666

Slide 6: Colton Brownlee, 191120-M-ET234-1126, November 20, 2019, U.S. Marine Corps. https://www.marines.mil/Photos/igcategory/Combat/?igphoto=2002217165

Slide 6: Unknown, AEHF-6 Launch, March 26, 2020, U.S. Space Force. https://www.spaceforce.mil/Connect-With-Us/Photos?igphoto=2002290843

Slide 6: Ross Ruddell, James Boston Bound- Division: East -Seed: 5, August 3, 2015, U.S. Coast Guard. https://www.flickr.com/photos/coast_guard/25834522826/in/album-72157665813199041/

Slide 7: Elizabeth Fraser, Summer 2019, August 12, 2019, Arlington National Cemetery. https://www.flickr.com/photos/arlingtonnatl/48577466081/in/album-72157709236539757/

Slide 7: Elizabeth Fraser, Bluejay in Section 18, May 7, 2020, Arlington National Cemetery. https://www.flickr.com/photos/arlingtonnatl/49884312222/in/album-72157713107576498/

Slide 7: Elizabeth Fraser, Seasonal Highlights at ANC, March 10, 2020, Arlington National Cemetery. https://www.flickr.com/photos/arlingtonnatl/49647671198/in/album-72157713448666422/

Slide 7: Elizabeth Fraser, Doolittle Raiders at ANC, February 19, 2020, Arlington National Cemetery. https://www.flickr.com/photos/arlingtonnatl/49561473778/in/album-72157713188072206/

Slide 8: Unknown, Aisne-Marne American Cemetery and Memorial, Wikimedia Commons. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Aisne-Marne American Cemetery and Memorial.jpg

Slide 8: Ichigo121212, Rest in Piece, August 18, 2013, Pixabay.com. https://pixabay.com/photos/rest-in-piece-grave-wwii-203498/

Slide 8: barskefranck, Colleville-Sur-Mer, September 29, 2019, Pixabay.com. https://pixabay.com/photos/cemetery-american-colleville-sur-mer-4534449/

Slide 9: Elizabeth Fraser, Thunderstorm Rolls Over Arlington National Cemetery, June 19, 2017, Arlington National Cemetery. https://www.flickr.com/photos/arlingtonnatl/34629642004/in/album-72157683317521930/

Slide 10: Elizabeth Fraser, U.S. Flags Are Hung in the Memorial Amphitheater in Preparation for Veterans Day, November 4, 2019, Arlington National Cemetery.

https://www.flickr.com/photos/arlingtonnatl/49013926468/in/album-72157711642870447/