

American Holidays: Memorial Day

Discuss

- 1) When is Memorial Day?
- 2) Why do Americans celebrate Memorial Day?

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

Memorial Day is always on May 30. Find it on the calendar. What day of the week is it this year?

Although the actual Memorial Day is on May 30, we have a different day that we celebrate it. This year, Memorial Day Observed is on May 28. Find it on the calendar. What day of the week is it?

On Memorial Day Observed, people have the day off work and school. Why do you think it's on the 28 instead of the 30?



Soldiers marching in a Memorial Day parade.

Memorial Day Observed is always on a Monday so that people can have a three-day weekend. It's always the last Monday in May. Cities often have parades on Memorial Day. Bands play and soldiers march.





Why do Americans celebrate Memorial Day? It is a day to remember the soldiers who died in wars. It is not a day to celebrate war.

In Honolulu, boy scouts will put leis on the graves of soldiers. On Magic

Boy scout putting a lei on a grave.

Island at Ala Moana Beach Park, people will light lanterns and float them on the water. This year, it's from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 28.



Lanterns at Ala Moana Beach Park.



Putting lanterns in the water.

Review

- 1) When is Memorial Day this year? When is it observed?
- 2) Why is Memorial Day Observed always on a Monday?
- 3) Why do Americans celebrate Memorial Day?
- 4) In most cities, how do Americans celebrate Memorial Day?
- 5) How will people celebrate in Honolulu?

Discuss

- 1) Do you have a holiday like Memorial Day in your country? When is it? What do people do?
- 2) Will you do anything on Memorial Day this year?
- 3) Traditionally, Memorial Day marks the beginning of summer. Some people say that before Memorial Day, you cannot wear sandals or white shoes. What do you think?



White shoes