

Days to Remember

Read how civic observances connect history and meaning.

SS.3.CG.2.3 "Explain the history and meaning behind patriotic holidays and observances."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each holiday or observance name. Circle the words that tell the history or meaning of each one.

Patriotic Days and Their Meanings

- ① Independence Day is observed on July 4. It remembers July 4, 1776, when the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. The document said the thirteen colonies would no longer be ruled by Great Britain. Today, many people fly flags, watch fireworks, or join parades. These actions celebrate the beginning of the United States as an independent country.
- ② Memorial Day and Veterans Day both connect to the armed forces, but they have different meanings. Memorial Day honors people who died while serving in the United States military. It grew from Decoration Day, when people decorated soldiers' graves after the Civil War. Veterans Day honors all people who served in the military. It is linked to the November 11, 1918, armistice that ended fighting in World War I.
- ③ Juneteenth is observed on June 19. It remembers June 19, 1865, when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced that enslaved people in Texas were free. This news came more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth celebrates freedom and remembers the long struggle for it. Flag Day, observed June 14, marks the day in 1777 when Congress adopted the first United States flag.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What happened on July 4, 1776, and why does Independence Day remember it?

2 How are Memorial Day and Veterans Day different?

3 Why is June 19 important to Juneteenth?

4 What event does Flag Day mark?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a two-sentence announcement for a school observance of one holiday or observance named in the reading. In sentence 1, tell the history behind it. In sentence 2, tell what it means and one respectful way students could observe it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each holiday or observance name. Circle the words that tell the history or meaning of each one. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What happened on July 4, 1776, and why does Independence Day remember it?	The Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. Independence Day celebrates the beginning of the United States as an independent country.
2	How are Memorial Day and Veterans Day different?	Memorial Day honors people who died while serving in the military. Veterans Day honors all people who served in the military.
3	Why is June 19 important to Juneteenth?	On June 19, 1865, federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced that enslaved people in Texas were free.
4	What event does Flag Day mark?	It marks the day in 1777 when Congress adopted the first United States flag.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Juneteenth, we remember June 19, 1865, when federal troops arrived in Galveston and announced that enslaved people in Texas were free. We can learn about this day and celebrate freedom.

Accept accurate explanations of the selected holiday's historical event and meaning from the passage. For the open response, accept a respectful observance action that fits the holiday or observance.