# Days That Matter

Read how holidays help people remember what matters to them.

**3.C.1.3.C** "Examine the significance of community, state, and federal holidays."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Write 1 beside the community holiday, 2 beside the state holiday, and 3 beside the federal holiday. Underline one sentence in each paragraph that tells why that holiday matters.

### Three Kinds of Holidays

1. A community can choose a day that tells its own story. Some towns celebrate Founders Day to remember how their town began. Neighbors might share old stories, visit local places, or thank people who care for the town today. This day matters because people learn what makes their home special. A nearby town may have a different holiday because its story is different.

2. California observes César Chávez Day on March 31 as a state holiday. César Chávez helped farmworkers ask for safer working conditions and fair treatment. On this day, people may learn about his work and talk about the workers who grow food. The holiday matters because it helps Californians remember a leader who worked for change. Other states do not have to observe the same state holiday.

3. Across the United States, Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a federal holiday in January. Dr. King worked to end unfair laws that treated people differently because of their race. Many people mark the day by helping others in their communities. This holiday matters because it helps people across the country remember his work for equal rights. Unlike a state holiday, a federal holiday is observed across the nation.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does Founders Day matter to towns that celebrate it?

2. Why does California observe César Chávez Day?

3. Why does Martin Luther King Jr. Day matter to people across the country?

4. How is the reach of Martin Luther King Jr. Day different from the reach of César Chávez Day? Why does that difference matter?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your community starts a new holiday to honor a person, place, or event not named in the passage. Write three sentences that name the holiday, tell how people could observe it, and explain why it would matter to your community.

**ANSWER KEY**

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**GRADE 3 · 3.C.1.3.C**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Write 1 beside the community holiday, 2 beside the state holiday, and 3 beside the federal holiday. Underline one sentence in each paragraph that tells why that holiday matters. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Why does Founders Day matter to towns that celebrate it? | **It helps people learn how their town began and what makes it special.** |
| 2 | Why does California observe César Chávez Day? | **It helps Californians remember his work for safer conditions and fair treatment for farmworkers.** |
| 3 | Why does Martin Luther King Jr. Day matter to people across the country? | **It helps people remember Dr. King's work to end unfair laws and win equal rights.** |
| 4 | How is the reach of Martin Luther King Jr. Day different from the reach of César Chávez Day? Why does that difference matter? | **Martin Luther King Jr. Day is observed across the nation, so people across the country remember his work. César Chávez Day is a California state holiday, so it especially helps Californians remember his work.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our town could celebrate Library Helpers Day to honor people who keep our library welcoming. Neighbors could write thank-you notes and help sort donated books. This holiday would matter because it reminds us how sharing books helps everyone learn.

Accept underlines that explain each holiday's importance, including sentences about the people or history it honors. For the open task, accept any three-sentence response that names a new community holiday, describes an observance, and explains its value.