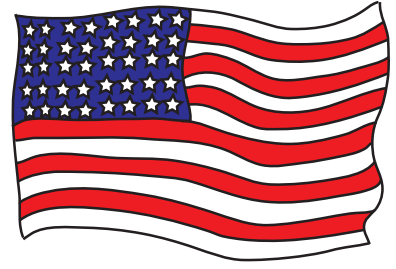


**Compare & Contrast:****Answer Key****Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Labor Day**

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**Directions:** Read the passage to find out about how Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Veterans Day are similar and different.

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Many people confuse Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Veterans Day. Why do you think that is? Each of these holidays focuses on honoring a group of people, but there are differences that make them unique.

Memorial Day is celebrated every year on the last Monday in May, and some people call this the beginning of the summer season. But this holiday is more than a kickoff to summer. Memorial Day is meant to celebrate, honor, and remember all of the men and women in the military who died fighting for the United States. Originally called Decoration Day, because family members would decorate the graves of the soldiers that died, this special day was named Memorial Day in 1950. A good way to remember what Memorial Day is all about is to think of the word “memory,” which is related to the word *memorial*. On Memorial Day, people honor the memory of those who have died in service to their country.

Labor Day is a day that celebrates American workers. This holiday’s purpose is to recognize the hard work that has helped this country do well. Labor Day is often the symbolic end of summer because it is celebrated on the first Monday in September. Many people do not work on Labor Day, and they treat the day like it’s the last day of summer. Filled with swimming, going to the beach, traveling, and enjoying time with friends and family, people take their extra day off and enjoy it. Labor Day has no connection to the military or veterans.

Veterans Day is a day to honor veterans who have served in the United States Armed Forces. A **veteran** is a person who was formerly part of the armed forces. The United States Armed Forces includes the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps. Veterans Day is on November 11, when all government offices and many schools and businesses are closed to observe the holiday. There are parades and celebrations to honor veterans.

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**Directions:** Respond to the prompt below. Use complete sentences and details from the text to support your answer.

Why is it important to know the differences between Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Veterans Day?

**Student answers will vary, but may include:**

**It is important to know the difference between Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Veterans Day**

**because each holds a significant meaning. These holidays were created with the intention to**

**focus on a particular group of people, so keeping the holidays clear and understood is a way to**

**show respect to those people.**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Complete the graphic organizer with information from the passage about the similarities and differences between the three holidays.

Memorial Day

Labor Day

