

Name _____

Honoring The Fallen

Directions: Read the passage carefully. Fill in each blank with the correct missing word from the word bank to complete the story about the meaning and origins of **Memorial Day**.



holiday	flowers
fallen	sacrificed
Monday	silent
summer	parades
Decoration	Civil

Every year, on the last (1)_____ of May, Americans come together to remember and honor the brave men and women who (2)_____ their lives while serving in the military. Long ago, this special day was known as (3)_____ **Day**, when people decorated the graves of fallen soldiers with (4)_____ and flags.

The first large observance took place after the (5)_____ **War**, when communities wanted to show gratitude to those who had given their lives for the nation's freedom. In 1971, Memorial Day became an official (6)_____ holiday. Many people spend the day attending (7)_____, visiting cemeteries, or simply taking a (8)_____ moment to think about what freedom truly means.

While it can be easy to think of the day as the start of (9)_____, its true purpose is to remember the (10)_____ and courage of those who protected our country.