



Welcome!

On behalf of Splash! Publications, we would like to welcome you to *Memorial Day*, one of 13 lessons in our *National Holidays Unit*. This lesson was designed by teachers with you and your students in mind.

The Format

Our goal is a lesson that you can use as a Whole Group or in a Center immediately. No comprehension questions to write or activities to create. Simply make copies of the lesson for your students and start teaching.

The Lesson Plan

Before reading about *Memorial Day*, activate prior knowledge by asking students to write down what they think Memorial Day is. Have students share their answers. Explain that today, they will be learning about the history of Memorial Day.

After reading about *Memorial Day*, students will:

- answer *Memorial Day* Reading Comprehension Questions.
- answer questions about a Memorial Day time line.
- create a time line for their own lives.

Note: Answers to the comprehension questions and grading charts are at the end of the lesson.

Our Other National Holidays Lessons

Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Pearl Harbor Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Valentine's Day, President's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Independence Day.

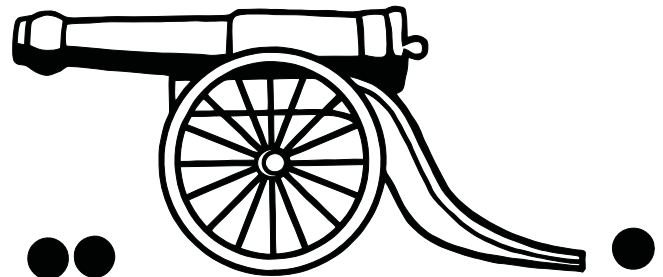


Memorial Day

Memorial Day is celebrated on the last Monday in May. This is the day that we honor Americans who have died during war.

Decoration Day

In 1864, Memorial Day was known as Decoration Day. On Decoration Day, flowers were placed on the graves of Civil War soldiers.



The Civil War

The Civil War was a fight against slavery. Soldiers in the North fought

to end slavery. Soldiers in the South fought to keep their slaves. The United States fell apart during the Civil War.

In 1865, the North won the Civil War. Slavery ended. The United States became one nation again. Decoration Day was changed to Memorial Day.

The First Memorial Day

In 1873, New York became the first state to celebrate Memorial Day. By 1890, Memorial Day was celebrated in all of the northern states.

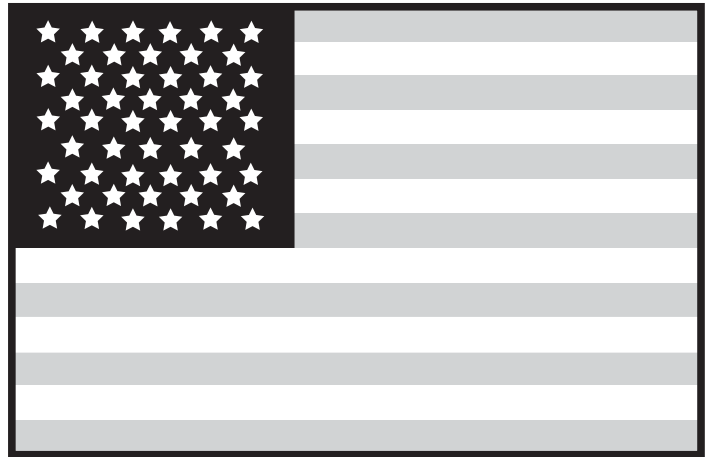
The Southern States

The southern states would not celebrate Memorial Day on the same day as the northern states. In the South, flowers were placed on the graves of soldiers on a different day.

After World War I, Memorial Day changed. It became a holiday for honoring Americans who died fighting in any war. The North and South began celebrating Memorial Day together.

Memorial Day Today

Today, many Americans have forgotten the meaning of Memorial Day. Many soldiers' graves are not decorated with flowers. People forget to wave their American flags. Some towns in the United States have stopped having Memorial Day parades.



You can help. On Memorial Day, remind your parents about the meaning of the day. Tell them about the soldiers who fought and died for our freedom. Ask your family to spend a few minutes thinking about the soldiers. Proudly wave an American flag. Go to the nearest Memorial Day parade. Place flowers on the grave of a soldier. You can help bring back the true meaning of Memorial Day.

Name _____

★ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ **Memorial Day** ★ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★

1. Memorial Day is the last Monday in –
 - a. May
 - b. January
 - c. June
 - d. September

2. In the 1860s, Memorial Day was known as –
 - a. Pilgrim’s Day
 - b. Decoration Day
 - c. Thanksgiving
 - d. Civil War Day

3. The first state to celebrate Memorial Day was –
 - a. Florida
 - b. New Jersey
 - c. New York
 - d. Kentucky

4. Why are two things you can do on Memorial Day?

1 _____

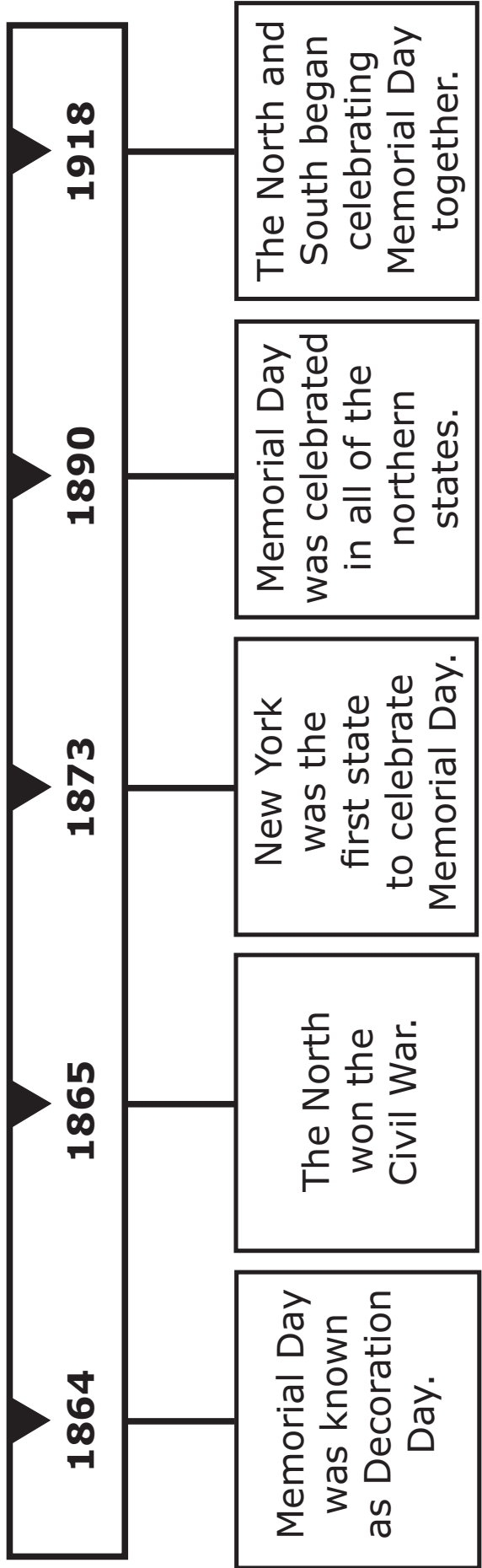
2 _____

Name _____



Directions: Use the time line to answer questions about the history of Memorial Day.

History of Memorial Day





1. On what date does the time line begin?

2. What happened in 1865?

3. When did the North and South begin celebrating Memorial Day together?

4. Which state was the first to celebrate Memorial Day?

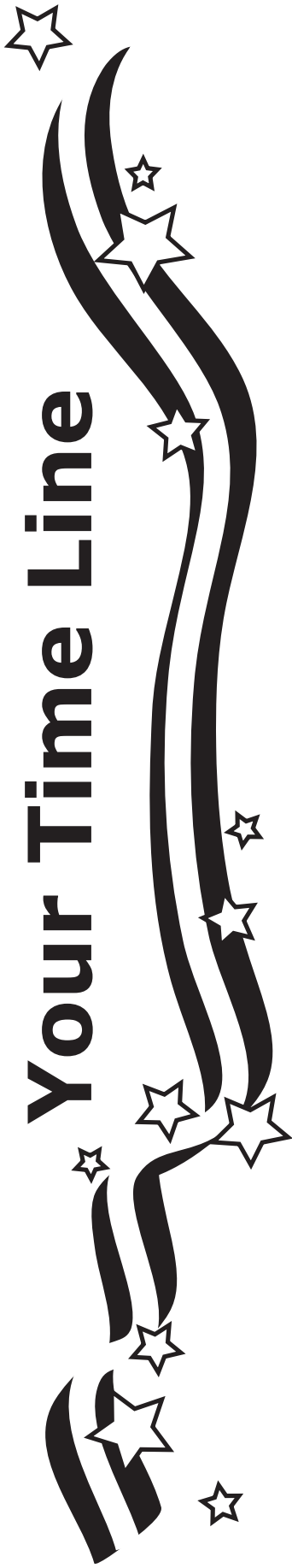
5. On what date does this time line end?



Extra!

1. How many years passed between the beginning and the end of the time line?

Name _____



Your Time Line

Directions: Make a time line of five important events from your life. The first date should be the year you were born. The last date should be something important that happened to you this year.

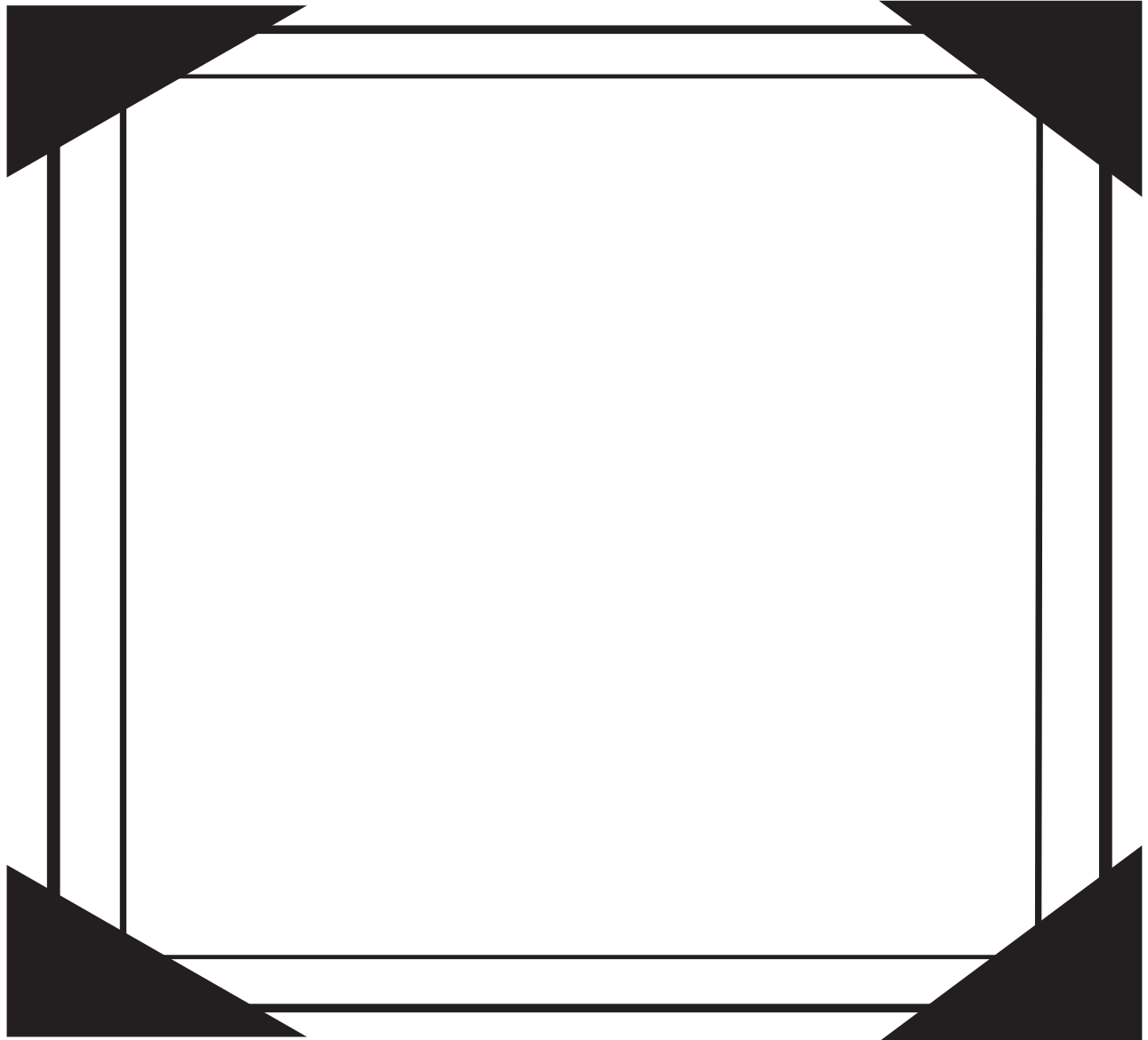
History of My Life

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

I was born.



Choose one of the events from your time line. Neatly draw and color a picture of this event in the frame below.



Explain what is happening in the picture. _____



Answers

Memorial Day Comprehension Questions

1. a
2. b
3. c
4. Answers will vary, but might include: wave a flag, tell parents about soldiers, think about soldiers, go to a parade, place flowers on the grave of a soldier.

Memorial Day Time Travel

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|---------|
| 1. 1864 | 3. 1918 | 5. 1918 |
| 2. North won Civil War | 4. New York | |

Extra!

1. 54 years

Your Time Line Grading Chart

Criteria	3	2	1	0	Score
Dates	Filled in 5 dates on time line from birth to present year	Filled in 3-4 dates on time line from birth to present year	Filled in 1-2 dates on time line from birth to present year	Didn't fill in any dates on the time line	
Events	Filled in 5 events on time line from birth to present year	Filled in 3-4 events on time line from birth to present year	Filled in 1-2 events on time line from birth to present year	Didn't fill in any events on the time line	
Drawing and Coloring	Neatly drew and colored a picture of one event in the picture frame	Drew and colored a picture of one event, but it was not in frame	Didn't finish drawing or coloring a picture of one event from time line	Didn't attempt to draw or color a picture of one event from time line	
Total					