

Patriotic Holidays and Observances

Third Grade



Patriotism

the love, loyalty, and respect (allegiance)
someone has for their country



Quarter 1

- American Founders Month (September all month)
- Labor Day (1st Monday of September)
- Patriot Day (September 11th)
- Constitution Day (September 17th)
- Celebrate Freedom Week (Last full week of September)
- Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15th-October 15th)

American Founders Month

History

- The Founding Fathers worked on the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution
- Famous men in this group include: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin

Meaning

- Celebrates the founding, or forming, of the United States
- Recognizes the individuals who worked to help the United States gain independence
- The Founders focused on protecting the rights of citizens

Labor Day

History

- The first Labor Day was in New York in 1882.
- Labor unions fought for better pay, working conditions, and protections for workers
- Many workers refused to work until conditions improved

Meaning

- Labor Day recognizes the hard work Americans do each day through their work
- This holiday gives a day off to workers as a recognition for their work

Patriot Day

History

- On September 11th, 2001, a violent terrorist group attacked the World Trade Center and Pentagon in the U.S.
- The first Patriot Day was declared a year after the attacks in 2002

Meaning

- Honors those who lost their lives on 9/11, including citizens and first responders
- Recognizes the bravery of first responders on this day

Constitution Day

History

- The U.S. Constitution was an agreed upon set of rules and laws
- This document outlined the organization of the U.S. government
- The document was signed in 1787

Meaning

- The U.S. Constitution set up the foundation for the government the U.S. has today
- It is the supreme law of the land
- This document is still used to make decisions today

Celebrate Freedom Week

History

- The Declaration of Independence announced the colonies freedom from Great Britain
- This document outlined the rights that colonists felt every person had, but that King George III was not respecting

Meaning

- Celebrates the freedoms and rights that citizens were granted after declaring their freedom
- Recognizes the importance of the principles in the Declaration of Independence to our country

Hispanic Heritage Month

History

- September 15-October 15 was the period that many Latin American countries gained independence
- In 1988, Hispanic Heritage Month was made a law and added to school curriculums

Meaning

- Celebrates Hispanic Americans and their culture
- Recognizes the contributions of Hispanic individuals
- Teaches about the history and stories of many important Hispanic Americans

Quarter 2

- Election Day (1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday of November)
- Victims of Communism Day (November 7)
- Holocaust Education Week (2nd Week of November)
- Veterans Day (November 11)
- Thanksgiving Day (4th Thursday of every November)
- Bill of Rights Day (December 15)

Election Day

History

- A uniform Election Day was decided by Congress in 1845
- This was decided to prevent states from influencing one another over a longer voting window

Meaning

- Opportunity for citizens to vote in primary and general elections
- Gives citizens the chance to place a vote for the candidate and causes they believe in
- A chance to use your power and voice as a citizen

Victims of Communism Day

History

- Communism means a country's government controls everything
- Citizens lack freedoms in these countries
- Several countries in the world today still face threats of communism

Meaning

- Recognizes people who suffered or died from communist practices
- Raises awareness of the dangers of communism
- Honors those who are fighting for freedom

Holocaust Education Week

History

- The Holocaust was an attack on Jewish men, women, and children during World War II
- The leader of Germany, Adolf Hitler, led the attacks
- Over 6 million people died because of these attacks

Meaning

- Recognizes the difficulties Jewish families faced during World War II
- Remembers the lives that were lost during the Holocaust
- A chance to work on tolerance and respect so events like this are never repeated

Veterans Day

History

- This holiday was originally called Armistice Day and recognized soldiers who fought in World War I
- President Wilson recognized this day in 1919

Meaning

- Honors citizens who have served in the U.S. military
- Recognizes these people's bravery and sacrifice
- Opportunity to thank those who have served in any branch of the military

Thanksgiving Day

History

- In history, Thanksgiving celebrated a good, strong harvest or any special occasion
- Explorers and settlers even before the Pilgrims often gave thanks
- The Pilgrims and the Native American tribes who understood the land and helped them had one of the most famous Thanksgivings
- President Washington declared the first national day of thanks
- President Roosevelt declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1942

Meaning

- Demonstrates our gratitude and thankfulness for the year
- Celebrates our families, our lives, and people we are thankful for

Bill of Rights Day

History

- The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution in 1791
- These ten amendments protect the freedoms and rights of citizens
- These amendments were written mostly by James Madison

Meaning

- Teaches about the rights and freedoms that this document protects
- Shows a commitment to improvement and keeping citizens' needs in mind when making decisions

Quarter 3

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day (3rd Monday of January)
- Black History Month (February all month)
- Women's History Month (March all month)
- Medal of Honor Day (March 25)

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

History

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a civil rights leader
- He was a peaceful protestor
- He led the March on Washington and gave his “I Have a Dream Speech”
- He worked to change segregation laws

Meaning

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wanted all citizens to have the same rights and freedoms
- “I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”
MLK Jr.

Black History Month

History

- Black men and women fought for equal rights during the Civil Rights Movement
- This month was dedicated in 1976 to recognize the contributions of Black individuals

Meaning

- Recognizes Black men and women's achievements
- Celebrates diversity and acceptance
- Teaches about the history and stories of many important Black individuals in U.S. history

Women's History Month

History

- Women fought for the same rights and freedoms as men
- Women peacefully protested in the Suffrage Movement and Equal Rights Movement
- This month was dedicated in 1987 to celebrate women's achievements

Meaning

- Celebrates American women and their achievements
- Recognizes the contributions of women in American history
- Teaches about the history and stories of many important women

Medal of Honor Day

History

- The Medal of Honor is the military's highest award, given for courage, bravery, and valor
- The medal was introduced in 1861 for the Navy
- Over 3,400 medals have been presented

Meaning

- This award demonstrates the highest level of courage and bravery by military service members
- Recognizes patriotism and sacrifice from those who serve in the U.S. military

Quarter 4

- Pascua Florida Day (April 2)
- Financial Literacy Month (All Month in April)
- Florida Emancipation Day (May 25)
- Armed Forces Week (Third week of May)
- Memorial Day (Last Monday of May)
- Independence Day (July 4)

Pascua Florida Day

History

- Florida was first discovered by Juan Ponce de Leon in 1513
- This Spanish explorer named the land he found “Pascua Florida” which means “Easter Flowers”
- Florida became a state in 1845

Meaning

- Celebrates the discovery of Florida
- Teaches about Florida’s statehood and history
- Opportunity for Florida citizens to gather and celebrate their state

Financial Literacy Month

History

- First declared in 2003 to help raise awareness of smart money habits
- In 2022, Governor Ron DeSantis passed a bill requiring all high schoolers to take a class in financial literacy

Meaning

- Teaches students and citizens how to be responsible with money
- Teaches ideas such as saving, investing, budgeting, and making smart financial decisions

Florida Emancipation Day

History

- Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation
- In 1865 the Civil War ended and enslaved people in Florida were freed
- Juneteenth became a federal holiday in 2021 to honor the end of slavery

Meaning

- Teaches about the Civil War and history of enslaved people before being freed
- Celebrates the freeing of enslaved people
- Discusses rights and freedoms of Americans

Armed Forces Week

History

- There are six branches of the U.S. military: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force
- In 1950, President Truman declared Armed Forces Day to demonstrate how the six branches work together to defend the United States

Meaning

- Honors men and women who serve in all branches of the military
- Recognizes the courage and bravery of serving in the military
- Educates others about the branches of the U.S. military

Memorial Day

History

- First observed in 1868 as Decoration Day
- Citizens went to cemeteries to decorate the graves and honor those who lost their lives while serving
- In 1968, Memorial Day was declared a federal holiday

Meaning

- Remembers those men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military

Independence Day

History

- On July 4, 1776 the Declaration of Independence was adopted
- The colonies were fighting a war for independence from Great Britain (Revolutionary War)
- A year later in 1777, the United States celebrated the one year anniversary of their independence

Meaning

- Celebrates the forming of the United States of America
- Celebrates America's freedom from Great Britain
- Recognizes American citizens' freedoms

Sources

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