

Holidays and traditions



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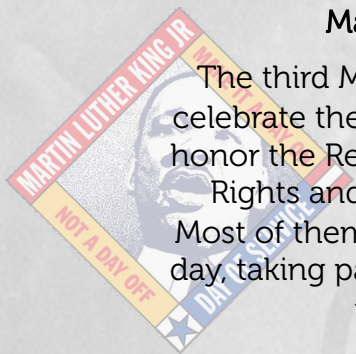


Holidays

There are lots of federal holidays in the United States. Here are some of the most popular:

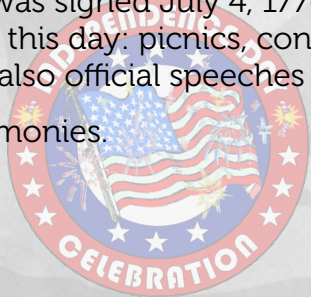
Martin Luther King Day

The third Monday of January, Americans celebrate the Martin Luther King's Day. They honor the Reverend who fought for the Civil Rights and who was murdered in 1968. Most of them choose to help people on this day, taking part in charities or spending time to make difference.



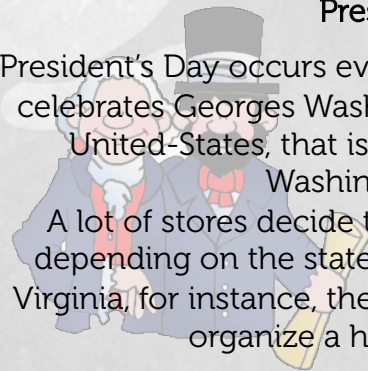
Independence Day

On July 4th, citizens celebrate the Declaration of independence that was signed July 4, 1776. A lot of events occur on this day: picnics, concerts, fireworks, parades but also official speeches and ceremonies.



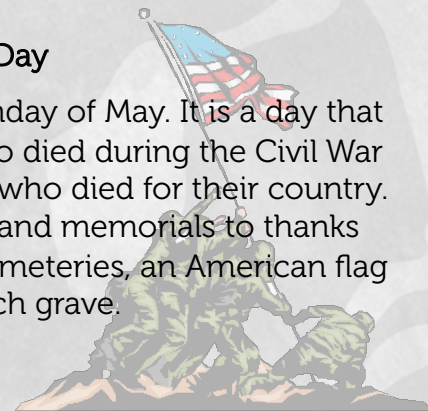
President's Day

President's Day occurs every third Monday of February and celebrates Georges Washington, the first President of the United-States, that is why it is also officially called Washington's Birthday. A lot of stores decide to hold sales on this day. Then, depending on the state, different actions take place. In Virginia, for instance, there is a long parade whereas they organize a huge fest in Colorado.



Memorial Day

Memorial Day is held the last Monday of May. It is a day that honors the American soldiers who died during the Civil War but also all the American soldiers who died for their country. Many citizens go to cemeteries and memorials to thanks soldiers and in a lot of national cemeteries, an American flag is placed on each grave.



Traditions

Other days are very popular for Americans:



Valentine's Day



Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 14th. On Valentine's Day, Americans give presents like candy or flowers to the ones they love, but not only to their boyfriend or girlfriend. Thus, they can write a card or offer a present to their friends or members of family too.



Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving is observed on the fourth Thursday in November. In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrim fathers (English colonists) held a three-day feast to celebrate a huge harvest.

The Thanksgiving feast became a national tradition and almost always includes some of the foods served at the first feast: roast

turkey, cranberry sauce, potatoes, and pumpkin pie.



Halloween



Halloween is celebrated on October 31st. On Halloween, American children dress up in funny or scary costumes and go "trick or treating" by knocking on doors in their neighborhood. Everybody takes part in Halloween in the US and adults are fond of turning their beautiful yard into a creepy cemetery.



Christmas



Christmas is celebrated on December 25th. It is a Christian holiday marking the birth of the Christ Child. Decorating houses and yards with lights, putting up Christmas trees, giving gifts, and sending greeting cards have become holiday traditions even for many non-Christian Americans.



Exercises

1) Sort the holidays in the calendar below:

A. Independence Day

C. Thanksgiving

E. Memorial Day

G. Halloween

B. Valentine's Day

D. President's Day

F. Christmas

H. Martin Luther King Day

January	February	March	April	May	June
July	August	September	October	November	December

2) Answer the questions below:

Who was Martin Luther King?

When was the Declaration of Independence signed?

How do Virginians celebrate President's Day?

Where do people put the American flag on Memorial Day?



3) Choose the right answer:

On Valentine's Day, you can offer flowers and chocolate to:

- J) Your best friend
- M) Your ennemy
- F) Your boss

For Halloween you can't be dressed in:

- N) A pizza slice
- H) A squeletton
- R) You can be dressed in whatever you want

For Halloween, adults make:

- A) Terrifying graveyards
- E) Funny houses
- G) Gorgeous yards

Thanksgiving is a tribute to:

- E) Fathers
- O) Colonists
- A) Friends

Christmas is a:

- S) Muslim holiday
- Y) Christian holiday
- D) Jewish holiday

When did the Pilgrim Fathers hold a three-day feast?

- S) In summer
- R) In spring
- N) In automn

Find an extra name thanks to your answers:



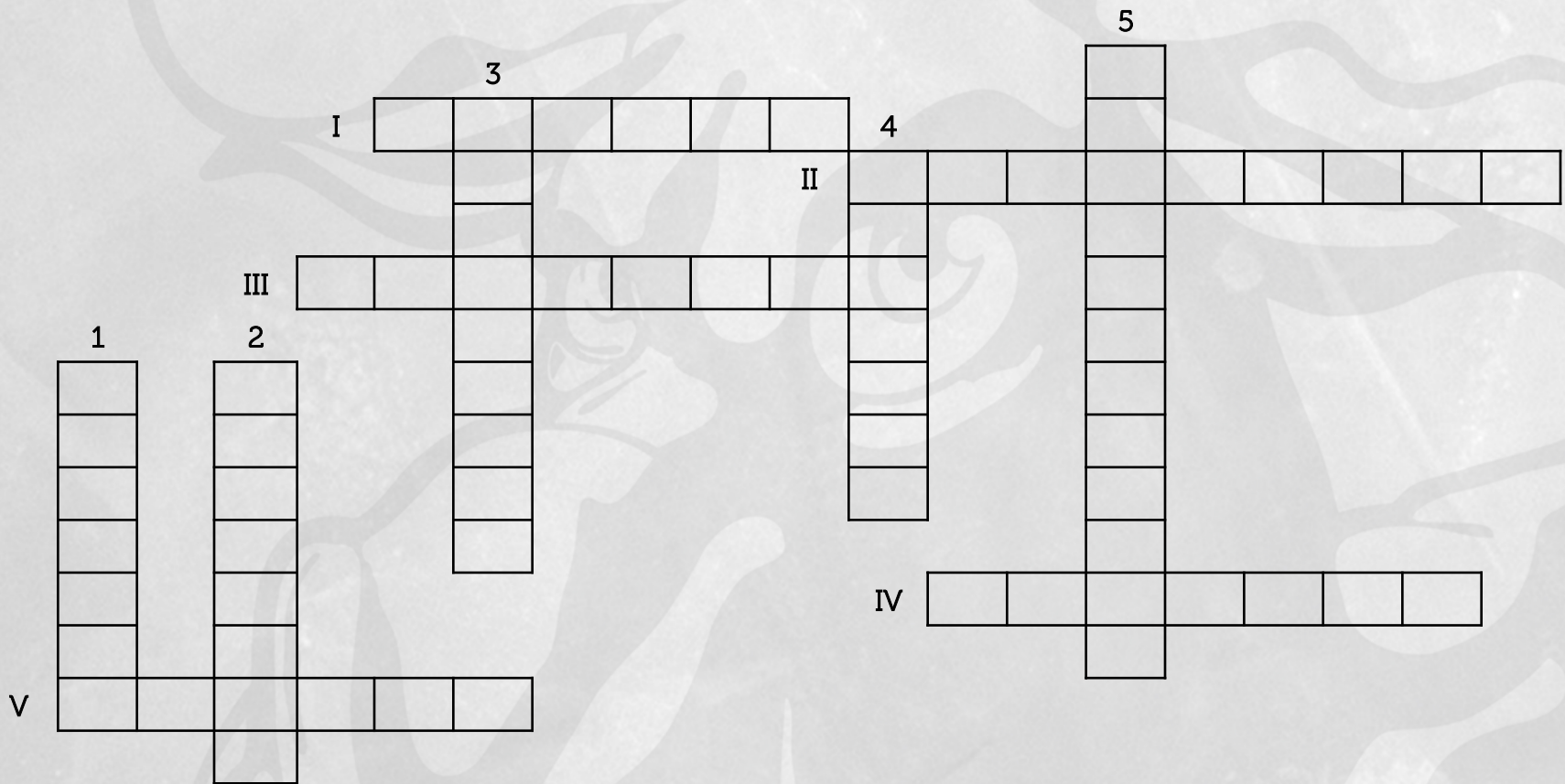
Games

Find the translations of these words:

- ✧ Œuvre de charité
- ✧ Festival
- ✧ Feu d'artifice
- ✧ Tombe
- ✧ Jour férié
- ✧ Assassiné
- ✧ Soldes
- ✧ Soldat
- ✧ Discours
- ✧ Magasin

R	F	U	P	E	V	A	R	G	H	J	A	S
Y	T	K	H	M	S	S	F	D	G	K	Z	O
C	V	I	L	M	U	Q	A	A	E	L	N	L
H	S	K	S	T	O	R	E	L	R	F	B	D
A	L	R	B	D	W	L	D	T	E	E	E	I
R	R	O	D	T	H	K	A	E	Y	S	R	E
I	O	W	T	G	Y	M	P	A	R	T	V	R
T	E	E	H	C	E	E	P	S	U	E	X	P
I	A	R	C	P	E	T	O	P	I	M	D	O
E	Y	I	J	I	E	F	I	U	O	W	C	I
S	P	F	U	O	Y	A	D	Y	L	O	H	U
A	M	Z	X	M	R	D	E	U	Y	A	R	P





- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) The Pilgrims celebrated it with a huge feast | I) His birth is celebrated on Christmas |
| 2) The month of Valentine's Day | II) A holiday in December |
| 3) The creepiest holiday in October | III) The name of the English colonists |
| 4) What you wear for Halloween | IV) What you can offer on Valentine's Day |
| 5) Where you go trick-or-treating | V) What you eat on Thanksgiving |

