

Name: _____

Holidays

A holiday is a special day to remember special people or special events in history. The word holiday is a combination of two words: holy and day. At one time, most holidays celebrated religion. Today, holidays celebrate more than religion. Some holidays are even for nature or animals! Earth Day, for example, is a holiday when we think about how to take care of our planet, Earth.

Every month (with the exception of August) has a major holiday. On some holidays children do not have to go to school and adults do not have to go to work. Christmas and Thanksgiving are examples of holidays when most people do not have to go to work or school. Of course, there are people who have to work, even on a holiday. Police officers, bus drivers, fire fighters, and hospital workers are always needed, even on important holidays. These people are hard at work while everyone else gets to stay home and celebrate.

On other holidays, people do go to work and school. There is no day off on holidays like Halloween, St. Patrick's Day, and Valentine's Day. People may still celebrate at work or school, or when they get home.

People celebrate holidays by spending time together. Sometimes people wear special clothes and eat special food. For instance, on St. Patrick's Day, green is the color of choice used to celebrate! People may eat green food, or treats shaped like a shamrock, a clover plant that is a symbol of Ireland.



People also celebrate some holidays with parades. There are large parades in many cities and towns. One of the largest holiday parades in America is the Macy's Parade in New York City. It is held every year on Thanksgiving Day, to celebrate both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

A holiday is a special time. Think of your favorite holiday. How will you celebrate it this year?

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1. What is a holiday?

2. What types of things are celebrated on holidays?

3. In which month are there no major holidays?

4. Name a holiday when people do not have to go to work or school.

5. Which people still have to work on holidays?

6. Name a holiday when people go to work or to school.

7. How do people celebrate holidays?

8. When is the Macy's Parade?

9. What is your favorite holiday and why?
