



# MEMORIAL DAY

**Lesson Length:** 1.25 hours + Extension Activities

**Vocabulary & Expressions:** Vocabulary related to Memorial Day

**Language/Culture Point:** Capitalization

**Objective:** Students will be able to talk about what they are going to do for Memorial Day.

**Materials:** Computer, projector, PPT Presentation: Memorial Day, red/green/yellow Signal Cards, paper, markers.




## STEP 1: ACTIVATE BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
10 minutes		- Mind Mapping

### TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. On the board, write “Memorial Day” in the center of a circle. Draw spokes coming out of the circle to prepare for a Mind Mapping activity.
2. At the end of a few of the spokes, add words and draw pictures associated with Memorial Day. For example, write the words ‘summer’, ‘picnic’, ‘honor’ or ‘soldier’, or draw a picture of a flag or a grave decorated with flowers.
3. Have students contribute ideas or draw/write them on the board themselves.

## STEP 2: MINI-PRESENTATION WITH PROMPT

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
10 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Computer and Projector</li><li>- PPT Presentation: Memorial Day </li><li>- Alternative: printed slides/pictures/drawings</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Teaching with PowerPoint</li><li>- Using Pictures</li></ul>



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## TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. Using the PowerPoint “Memorial Day,” tell students how we celebrate Memorial Day in the United States.

*For more advanced students, download the PowerPoint file and edit the text, adding detail and language complexity as is appropriate for the level of your students.*

2. Repeat the story a second time, highlighting key vocabulary.

## STEP 3: DISCUSSION AND COMPREHENSION CHECK

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
5 minutes	- PPT Presentation: Memorial Day - Red/green/yellow Signal Cards	- Signal Cards

## TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. Do a true/false activity using Signal Cards. Make true and false statements about the PowerPoint and have students use Signal Cards to indicate True/False/I don't know.
2. Go back through the presentation again to verify answers.

## STEP 4: HIGHLIGHT LESSON FOCUS AND MODEL TASK

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
5 minutes		- Chalk Talk

## TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. Tell students, “Today we’re going to talk about how you plan to spend Memorial Day.”
2. Use Chalk Talk to describe the different things you plan to do for Memorial Day.
3. Tell students, “Some of you will work on Memorial Day. Others will have the day off. If you have children in school, they will have the day off. How will you spend the day?”



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## STEP 5: GUIDED PRACTICE

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
5 minutes		- Chalk Talk

### TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. Ask a strong student, “What will you do for Memorial Day?” Have the student come up to the board and do a Chalk Talk, or you can illustrate the student’s story as they talk.
2. As the student talks about how he or she will spend the day, clarify and supply vocabulary as necessary.
3. Ask a few more students how they plan to spend Memorial Day.

## STEP 6: PAIR OR SMALL GROUP WORK

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
20 minutes	- Paper - Markers	- Chalk Talk - Think-Pair-Share

### TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. On a blank sheet of paper, have each student work individually to illustrate his/her plans for Memorial Day.

*If you have advanced students, ask them to add vocabulary words and sentences to their Chalk Talk.*

2. After illustrating their plans, have students share with a partner and then with the class.
3. Help students with vocabulary, as necessary, and create a master vocabulary list on the board as new words come up in class.

## STEP 7: HIGHLIGHT HOW ENGLISH WORKS

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
15 minutes		- Think-Pair-Share



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## TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. On the board write the following sentences from the Memorial Day PowerPoint:
  - Memorial Day is an American holiday.
  - Memorial Day honors Americans who died in war.
  - Americans celebrate Memorial Day on the last Monday in May.
  - Memorial Day marks the coming of summer.
  - They watch the Indianapolis 500 car race.
2. Ask students to tell you which words are capitalized in the sentences on the board. You can mark the capitals as they tell you or you can ask students to come to the board and mark the capitals themselves.
3. Ask students to think to themselves and look for patterns as to which words are capitalized. If it hasn't come up earlier, you may need to explain to students that Indianapolis is the name of the city where the Indianapolis 500 occurs.
4. Have students work in pairs or groups to write rules for when to capitalize a word based on the sentences on the board.
5. Have each group share their rules with the class and write them on the board.
6. Compare rules between different groups and ask students if they agree with all the rules. Students may come up with rules such as the following:
  - Capitalize the names of holidays.
  - Capitalize days of the week.
  - Capitalize months.
  - Capitalize the names of cities.
  - Capitalize the first word of a sentence.
  - Capitalize nationalities.

If there are inaccuracies in the rules add additional sample sentences to the board so students can more clearly see the patterns and decide on a final set of rules. Leave the rules on the board or on chart paper to refer to in future lessons. Add to and refine the rules as the class comes across more instances of capitalizations.

*For more advanced students, write the sentences from the PowerPoint on the board with no capitalization and ask students to work in pairs to find the words that need to be capitalized. Or you can have them work together to recreate the sentences from the PowerPoint from memory or create their own story using the images from the PowerPoint, asking them to pay attention to where capitalization occurs. After students finish writing, they can work together to correct each others writing.*



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## STEP 8: QUICK CHECK AND REVIEW

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
5 minutes	- Printed slides from PowerPoint Presentation	- Exit Check - Using Pictures

### TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. As each student leaves, hold up a print out of one of the slides from the PowerPoint and ask him/her to tell you about the picture. Then ask the student one thing they plan to do for Memorial Day.



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## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES: HOW I SPENT MY MEMORIAL DAY/HONORING FALLEN SOLDIERS ACROSS CULTURES

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
Varies	- Students' Memorial Day photos	- Using Pictures - Teaching with PowerPoint

### TEACHING ACTIVITY #1

At the end of the Memorial Day lesson, ask students to take pictures of what they do on Memorial Day. They can make prints of their photos, or if they take digital images with a digital camera or cell phone, they can send the images to you to print, project, or show on a computer or tablet. Using the images, students can share their stories of how they spent the day with their classmates.

### TEACHING ACTIVITY #2

As above, ask students to take photos of what they do over Memorial Day. In groups or as a class, you can create your own PowerPoint of how students spent their Memorial Day.

### TEACHING ACTIVITY #3

Have students write about how they honor citizens killed in war in their own countries and compare that to what we do in the United States. Then have students share their stories and compare practices between cultures. Instead of a writing activity, this could also be done as a Think-Pair-Share.