Memorial Day Trivia Questions

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. What was the original name for Memorial Day?
   a. Remembrance Day
   b. Decoration Day
   c. Civil War Soldier Day
   d. The Day of Remembrance

2. Who is credited with starting the holiday?
   a. Abraham Lincoln
   b. Robert E. Lee
   c. James Garfield
   d. John Logan

3. The American Civil War resulted in the creation of the country’s first what?
   a. National cemeteries
   b. National monument
   c. National guard
   d. National Security Administration

4. Where is the official birthplace of Memorial Day?
   a. Massachusetts
   b. Virginia
   c. New York
   d. Pennsylvania

5. Why was May 30th chosen as the original day to celebrate Memorial Day?
   a. It marked the start of the Civil War
   b. It marked the end of the Civil War
   c. It was the day of the first Civil War casualty
   d. There were no significant battles on that day in history

6. In what year did Memorial Day become a legal federal holiday?
   a. 1865
   b. 1868
   c. 1942
   d. 1971

7. Who started the tradition of wearing red poppies on Memorial Day?
   a. Moina Michael
   b. Dorothea Dix
   c. Florence Nightingale
   d. General John Logan

8. Which of the following is commonly used to decorate graves on Memorial Day?
   a. Balloons
   b. Notes
   c. Wreaths
   d. Candles

9. Which state was the first to designate Decoration Day as an official holiday?
   a. New York
   b. Pennsylvania
   c. North Carolina
   d. Virginia
10. What item is placed on each grave at Arlington Cemetery every year during the National Memorial Day celebration?
   a. A paper poppy
   b. A small American flag
   c. A military medal
   d. A wreath

11. How many soldiers are buried in Arlington National Cemetery?
   a. 50,000
   b. 10,000
   c. 400,000
   d. 1 million

12. What is the most popular activity people participate in on Memorial Day?
   a. Visiting friends and family
   b. Parade
   c. Decorating graves
   d. Watching war documentaries

13. What percentage of people travel by car on Memorial Day weekend?
   a. 15%
   b. 72%
   c. 47%
   d. 88%

14. What is the top Memorial Day weekend destination?
   a. New York, New York
   b. Orlando, FL
   c. Washington, D.C.
   d. Philadelphia, PA

15. Approximately how many Americans barbecue on Memorial Day weekend?
   a. 75%
   b. 25%
   c. 50%
   d. 90%

True or False Questions:
1. Memorial Day is celebrated in ten countries.
2. A national moment of remembrance is observed every year on Memorial Day.
3. The first Decoration Day united the country in remembering their dead.
4. Memorial Day marks the unofficial start of summer for Americans.
5. Today many Southern states still celebrate those who died in the Civil War on a different day than Memorial Day.
6. The first Decoration Day celebrations remembered all soldiers who had lost their lives.
7. Approximately 10,000 people decorated graves at the first Arlington Cemetery ceremony for Decoration Day.
8. After World War I, Memorial Day celebrations started to include remembrance of soldiers who died in any war.
9. Approximately 10 million U.S. service men and women have lost their lives in combat.
10. Nearly 40 million Americans travel at least 50 miles from home on Memorial Day weekend.
11. More people barbecue on Memorial Day weekend than any other holiday.
12. Over 1,000 active duty service members march in the National Memorial Day parade every year.
13. More than 400 people die every year in Memorial Day weekend traffic accidents.
14. Most people say Memorial Day weekend is the best holiday for summer travel.
15. More than 50 U.S. cities say Memorial Day began in their town.
Memorial Day Trivia Answers

Multiple Choice Answers:
1. B. According to History.com, it was named because people were meant to decorate soldier’s graves.
2. D. History.com reports General John A. Logan came up with the idea in 1868.
3. A. After the Civil War ended, national cemeteries were created to honor and house all those who died in the war says History.com
4. C. Waterloo, NY was designated in 1966 according to History.com because they were the first to celebrate with community wide events and grave decorations.
5. D. History.com says John Logan chose the day because it was largely insignificant.
6. D. The holiday was set on the last Monday in May and declared a federal holiday at the same time says History.com
7. A. According to usmemorialday.org Moina Michael wrote a poem about poppies and the war which gave her the idea for wearing poppies.
8. C. Flowers, wreaths, and flags are common grave decorations says PBS.
9. A. PBS reports New York designated the state holiday in 1873.
10. B. Attendees help place flags on each grave reports PBS.
11. C. Statistic Brain reports there are around 400,000 servicemen and women buried there.
12. A. Nearly 60% of Americans visit friends and family says Statistic Brain.
13. D. AAA reports just over 88% of holiday travelers drive despite high gas prices.
14. B. While many people travel internationally and to larger cities, AAA says Orlando is the top spot.
15. A. WalletHub reports nearly ¾ of Americans cookout on the holiday.

True or False Answers:
1. False. Memorial Day is an American holiday to celebrate those who served in the U.S. military according to History.com.
2. True. History.com reports the moment takes place at 3:00 p.m.
3. False. Northern states made Decoration Day an official holiday long before Southern states began to celebrate on the same day reports History.com.
4. True. History.com reports this is why many people celebrate with vacations and cookouts.
5. True. According to usmemorialday.org Texas, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Louisiana, and Tennessee all celebrate on a separate day.
6. False. Originally, Decoration Day only remembered soldiers who died in the Civil War reports PBS.
7. False. PBS says there were about 5,000 people in attendance.
8. True. After this second major conflict, PBS says people started to expand the meaning of the holiday.
9. False. Statistic Brain reports just over 1.1 million have lost their lives.
10. True. AAA reports about 39.3 people travel for the holiday weekend.
11. False. WalletHub says the Fourth of July is the most popular cookout holiday.
12. True. The parade is televised and watched by 1.5 million people, says WalletHub.
13. True. WalletHub reports 44% of these deaths are alcohol related.
14. False. Over half of Americans would rather travel on a weekend with no holiday according to WalletHub.
15. False. WalletHub says about 25 cities claim to be where the holiday began.