

Teacher's Guide

How to...

COMMEMORATE A HOLIDAY



Objectives:

The students will...

- Understand how holidays reflect a society's culture and heritage
- Be able to identify the major holidays in the United States and explain the significance of each
- Learn how to access information about current federal legislation using the [Thomas](#) portion of the Library of Congress website
- Develop projects and programs to increase historical awareness at school

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Resources and Suggestions:

Have the students research Executive Order 11582 which changed the commemoration of federal holidays to nearby Mondays. Debate where or not this was a wise decision.

Download the [teacher resource packet](#) from the Veterans Administration to help celebrate Veterans Day. Also, have the students look at the site for [Veterans Day](#) events and activities.

Have the students research the origins of our nation's federal holidays. Here are several web links to major American holidays:

Holiday	Source of Information
Labor Day	Department of Labor
Columbus Day	Library of Congress: American Memory
Veterans Day	Veterans Administration
Thanksgiving	History Channel
Martin Luther King Day	The King Center
Washington's Birthday	Mount Vernon
Memorial Day	USMemorialday.org

Conduct oral history projects with veterans and have the students write their stories and present them to the class.

Have the students create posters to commemorate a holiday and display them prominently around the school.

Assign individual students to research what happened on each school day. Have them make a "This day in history..." announcement to begin classes. [The History Channel](#) is a wonderful resource for information and has short videos that can be used as well.

Have the students create their own holidays by writing a bill to support their initiative.

Other ideas and projects are listed on the student handout.