

Topic: Memorial Day

Let's get started . . .What will you do on Memorial Day? Will it be the same as any other Monday? Do you have any plans? Explain.

Background:

Memorial Day is a federal, national American holiday celebrated on the last Monday in May each year. It is a day to honor soldiers who have died in wars. In the United States, it is the beginning of the summer season, even though summer *really* begins on June 21. Many families celebrate take a "three-day weekend" trip. Sometimes the original meaning of the holiday is forgotten with the preparations for summer.



In pairs for minutes, ask and answer these questions:

- Do you have a day in your native country to honor soldiers who died in wars? If yes, when is this day? How does your native country celebrate this day to honor its soldiers?
- How does your native country remember its political history? Are there special celebrations or special days to remember other events in your native country's history? Tell a partner about some of these events or celebrations.

Share your partner's answers with the group.

There are many, many holidays in a year, but only a few are days off work. How many holidays do you have in your native country with days off work and how many that don't have days off?

What holidays are important to you? Why?

Draw some of the symbols of the holidays that you value and share them with a partner:



Discussion Questions:

Does your native culture have special colors? What do they mean? (for holidays, for the nation, for religion, for sports etc.)

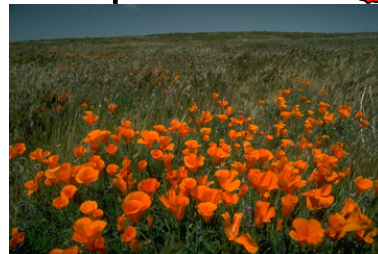
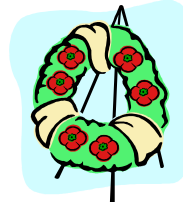
Does your native country have any special celebrations to start the summer season? Tell about how people in your native country prepare for the summer season.

Does your native country have any established three-day weekends? If so, how do people use this extra time off from work? Do they celebrate the holiday in a traditional form, or use the time for vacation and relaxation? Tell about your native country's observances and people's habits.

In America, the red poppy is a special symbol for Memorial Day. You will see veterans giving out poppies at grocery stores and other places on the weekend. They may be wearing a uniform.



Does your native country have any special flowers for different holidays? Tell about the role of flowers in your native country's culture and holidays.



Summer

What is summer like in your native country? How is it different from Seattle? What do you miss about summer in your native country? What do you like about summer in Seattle?