



Name: _____

Presidents' Day

text 1

Presidents' Day is a special holiday in the United States that celebrates the leaders who have guided our country throughout its history. This day is observed on the third Monday of February each year. Let's learn more about Presidents' Day and the important leaders it honors.

Presidents' Day was originally established to celebrate the birthday of *George Washington*, the first President of the United States. His birthday is on February 22nd. However, the holiday has changed over time and now honors all U.S. presidents, both past and present.

George Washington played an important role in the founding of the United States. He led the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War and served as the first President from 1789 to 1797. Washington is often called the "Father of His Country" for his contributions to the nation's early years.

While *George Washington* is a central figure on Presidents' Day, it's essential to recognize and honor the achievements of other presidents too. *Abraham Lincoln*, the 16th President, is often remembered for leading the country through the Civil War and for his efforts to end slavery. Presidents like *Thomas Jefferson*, *Teddy Roosevelt*, and *Franklin D. Roosevelt* also made significant contributions to the nation.



George Washington

People celebrate Presidents' Day in various ways. Some communities hold parades, while others organize events and activities at schools. Many people take advantage of the long weekend to learn more about U.S. history by visiting museums, historical sites, or even reading books about presidents.

Did You Know?

Presidents' Day is also a time when many stores have special sales and discounts, making it a popular time for shopping.

Presidents' Day is a federal holiday, which means that government offices and some schools are closed.

Presidents' Day is not just a day off from school; it's an opportunity to reflect on the leaders who have shaped our nation. By honoring their contributions, we acknowledge the importance of leadership and the impact it has on our country's history. So, the next time you enjoy a day off on Presidents' Day, take a moment to remember and appreciate the leaders who have guided the United States throughout the years.



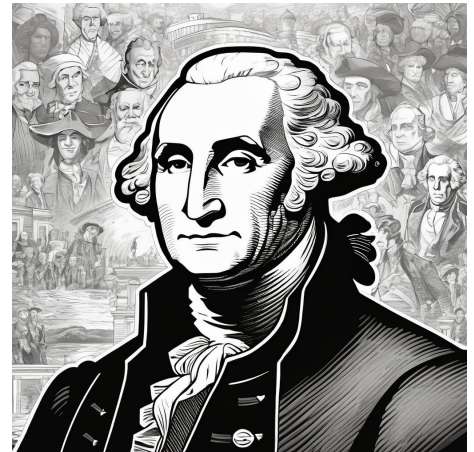
Name: _____

The Evolution of Presidents' Day **text 2**

Presidents' Day has undergone significant changes since it was first established to honor George Washington's birthday. Let's take a journey through time to explore how this special day has evolved over the years.

Presidents' Day traces its roots back to the celebration of George Washington's birthday on February 22nd. In the 19th century, people across the United States marked the day with festivities, parades, and events that honored the country's first president.

In 1971, the Uniform Monday Holiday Act was introduced to provide workers with more three-day weekends. As a result, the celebration of Washington's Birthday was moved to the third Monday in February. This change aimed to give people a longer weekend to enjoy and celebrate.



George Washington

Over time, Presidents' Day transformed from exclusively honoring George Washington to recognizing the contributions of all U.S. presidents. This expansion reflects the idea that every president, past and present, has played a role in shaping the nation's history.

Today, Presidents' Day is celebrated in various ways. Communities often organize parades, events, and activities that highlight the achievements and impact of different presidents. It has become a time for reflection on the diverse leadership that has guided the United States.

In addition to traditional celebrations, Presidents' Day has also become associated with commercial activities. Many businesses offer special sales and discounts during this time, making it a popular period for shopping.

Schools often take advantage of Presidents' Day to educate students about the history of the presidency and the role of presidents in shaping the nation. Students may engage in activities, projects, or lessons that focus on the achievements of various presidents.

Presidents' Day is recognized as a federal holiday, leading to the closure of schools and government offices. This allows families to spend quality time together and participate in community events.

In conclusion, Presidents' Day has transformed from a celebration of George Washington's birthday to a broader recognition of all U.S. presidents. The shift to the third Monday in February has allowed for extended weekends and increased opportunities for both celebration and reflection on the nation's leadership. Whether through parades, educational activities, or shopping, Presidents' Day continues to be a dynamic and evolving holiday that honors the presidency and its impact on the United States.



Name: _____

1. Why was Presidents' Day originally created? _____

2. When is Presidents' Day now observed? _____

3. What question can be answered with the information in text 2, but not text 1?

a) When is George Washington's birthday?

b) When was the celebration of George Washington's birthday moved to the 3rd Monday in February?

c) How is Presidents' Day celebrated?

4. What is the name of the act that moved the celebration of George Washington's birthday to the 3rd Monday in February? _____

5. Why was the celebration of Washington's Birthday moved to the third Monday in February?

a. To honor all U.S. presidents

b. To provide workers with more three-day weekends

c. To align it with another holiday

d. To make it easier to remember

6. What is the purpose of Presidents' Day now? _____
