



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Labor Day

Labor Day is a special holiday celebrated in the United States on the first Monday of September every year. It's a day dedicated to honoring the hard work and achievements of American workers. Labor Day marks the unofficial end of summer, but it's also a day to reflect on the importance of workers and the contributions they make to our country.

The history of Labor Day goes back to the late 1800s, a time when many workers faced difficult conditions. People often worked 12-hour days, seven days a week, just to earn enough money to live. The working conditions were often unsafe, and there were no laws to protect workers from being overworked or underpaid.

In response to these harsh conditions, workers began to come together to form labor unions. These unions organized strikes and protests to demand better working conditions, fair pay, and shorter work hours. One of the first major events was a large parade in New York City on September 5, 1882, where thousands of workers marched to show their support for workers' rights. This event is often considered the first Labor Day.



Labor Day parade in NYC

The idea of Labor Day quickly spread to other cities, and in 1894, Congress made it a national holiday. This means that every year, on the first Monday in September, people across the country take a day off to celebrate the contributions of workers.

Labor Day is celebrated in many different ways. Some cities have parades with floats, music, and speeches honoring workers. Many people use the day to relax with family and friends, often enjoying a barbecue or picnic. Because it's a national holiday, most schools and businesses are closed, giving people a chance to rest and enjoy the last days of summer.

For some, Labor Day is also a time to reflect on how far workers' rights have come and to consider how we can continue to improve working conditions for everyone.



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Labor Day is more than just a day off; it's a reminder of the important role workers play in our society. Every job, big or small, helps our country function and grow. Whether someone is building houses, teaching students, delivering mail, or providing healthcare, their work makes a difference.

Labor Day is a day to appreciate and recognize all the hard work that goes into making our communities strong and successful. It's a time to say "thank you" to workers everywhere for their dedication and effort.

1. When was the first Labor Day? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why did workers form labor unions? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. How is Labor Day celebrated today? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What is the purpose of Labor Day today? \_\_\_\_\_

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