



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

# Labor Day

Labor Day is a national holiday in the United States that takes place every year on the first Monday of September. This special day is set aside to honor and celebrate the hard work and contributions of all workers in our country.

Labor Day began over 140 years ago. Back in the late 1800s, many workers had very difficult jobs. They often worked long hours, sometimes up to 12 hours a day, seven days a week. The working conditions were not always safe, and the workers were not paid very much money for their hard work.

To improve these conditions, workers began to form groups called unions. These unions helped workers come together to ask for better pay, safer working environments, and shorter workdays. After many protests and meetings, the government decided to create a special holiday to recognize the importance of workers. The first official Labor Day was celebrated on September 5, 1882, in New York City.



Labor Day parade in NYC

Today, Labor Day is a day of rest and celebration. Many people take the day off from work and school to relax and spend time with family and friends. Some cities have parades, where people march down the streets holding signs and waving flags. Many families also have picnics, barbecues, or go to the beach to enjoy the last days of summer.

Labor Day is more than just a day off. It's a reminder of the hard work that people do every day to keep our country running smoothly. It's also a time to reflect on the progress that has been made in making jobs safer and fairer for everyone. Labor Day helps us appreciate the value of work and the people who do it.



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

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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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