

# AMERICAN FEDERAL HOLIDAYS

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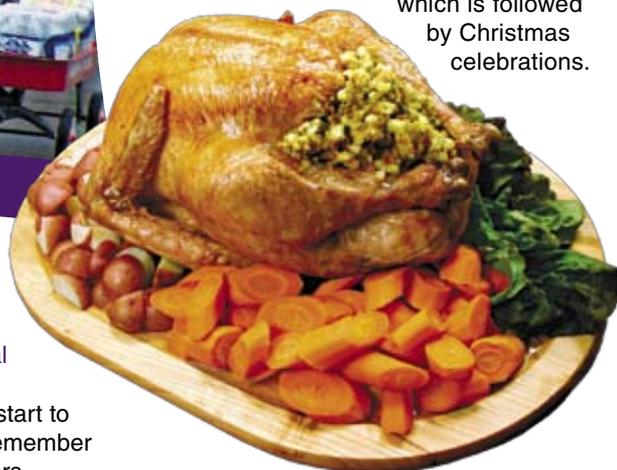
**DID YOU KNOW THAT THE ORIGIN OF THE WORD "HOLIDAY" IS ACTUALLY "HOLY DAY"? HOLIDAYS ORIGINALLY REPRESENTED SPECIAL RELIGIOUS DAYS. NOWADAYS, THE WORD HOLIDAY IS USED A BIT DIFFERENTLY IN THE US. WHENEVER THERE'S A DAY "OFF", WE CALL IT A HOLIDAY – BUT IF WE TAKE TIME OFF AND GO AWAY ON A TRIP, WE CALL IT A VACATION.**

On the first Monday in September, we have **Labor Day**, which celebrates working people. **Sadly**, it also often signals the end of summer and the start of a new school year for students.

The second Monday in October is **Columbus Day**, which commemorates explorer Christopher Columbus' landing in the New World in 1492.

**Veteran's Day** is celebrated on the second Monday in November, and was originally established to honor people who served in World War I. Now, it honors all veterans of any war.

Also in November is one of Americans' favorite holidays – **Thanksgiving**. It's held on the fourth Thursday of November and was historically held as thanks for a good **harvest**. We still get together with friends and family for a good meal. Thanksgiving also brings us the unofficial start to the **Christmas** shopping season, which is followed by Christmas celebrations.



Turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, corn and pumpkin pie are traditionally served at Thanksgiving. These dishes are native to America and were introduced as a new food source to the Europeans when they arrived.

## → Vocabulary

**origin** ['ɒrɪdʒɪn] - původ  
**holy** ['həʊli] - svatý, posvátný  
**to designate** ['deɪzɪɡneɪt] - určit, vyhlásit  
**equal rights among all races** ['i:kw(ə)l reɪsɪz] - rovnoprávnost všech lidských ras  
**that way** - díky tomu  
**free from... rule** [ru:l] - osvobozené od... nadvlády  
**sadly** ['sædli] - bohužel  
**harvest** ['hɑ:vɪst] - sklizeň



Independence Day

There are 10 federal or national holidays in the US. These are **designated** by the federal government, but each state can decide if they want to honor them, or have different ones. Here's a list of them by month.

In January, we celebrate **New Year's Day** on the first, as well as **Martin Luther King Day**. This day remembers a man who worked for **equal rights among all races** and is celebrated on the third Monday of the month. In the US, most federal holidays don't have specific dates, but are celebrated on a certain day. **That way**, states and companies who celebrate it will have a long weekend.

In February, the third Monday of the month is **President's Day**, which honors all our Presidents. It was originally held in honor of the birthday of our first

president, George Washington, on February 22.

Then we have to wait until May, when we celebrate **Memorial Day** on the last Monday of the month. This is also the unofficial start to summer. This holiday is held to remember the soldiers who were killed in wars.

July brings us **Independence Day**, or as it is more commonly known, the Fourth of July! This is when we remember our beginnings as an independent nation, **free from British rule**. Independence Day is always held on July 4, and if it falls on a weekend, either the Friday or the Monday is a day off.

In 1964, Martin Luther King became the youngest man to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He received it for promoting nonviolence and equal treatment for different races.

