

LABOR DAY

READING PASSAGE & COMPREHENSION ACTIVITIES

GR. 2-4

Labor Day

Labor Day is observed on the first Monday in September and celebrates the contributions of American workers. Originating in the 19th-century labor movement, it became a federal holiday in 1894.

Labor Day also marks the end of summer and is celebrated with parades, parties, and athletic events.



Origins of Labor Day

Labor Day is an annual event that started during one of the most difficult times for workers in history. In the late 1800s, the Industrial Revolution was booming in the United States. Most workers had to work 12-hour days, seven days a week, to make enough money to provide for their

Even children as young as 5 and 6 had to work very hard in mills, factories, and mines to help support their families, and for even less money than adults.

People worked in extremely unsafe working conditions, and they had little access to fresh air, sanitary facilities, or even break time.

Labor unions were formed to help workers get better treatment. Unions ...izing strikes and rallies to ...ers to give workers

Workingmen's Holiday

The idea of a "workingmen's holiday" spread across the country. In 1887, five states declared the first Monday in September a holiday to celebrate workers. Within 12 years, half of all the states celebrated Labor Day as a holiday.

On May 11th, 1894, employees of the Pullman Palace Car Company in Chicago went on strike, protesting wage cuts and the firing of their union representatives. The American Railroad Union called for a boycott of all Pullman railway cars, almost stopping railroad traffic nationwide.



The federal government sent troops to Chicago to end the strike, which led to violence. To repair relationships with American workers, Congress and the president created a law to recognize Labor Day for federal employees. This made Labor Day a national holiday.

Labor Day is celebrated in cities and towns across the United States. On the first Monday of September, people enjoy having parades, picnics, barbecues, fireworks displays, and other public gatherings to celebrate America's hardworking men and women. For many children and young adults, Labor Day marks the end of summer and the start of back-to-school season.

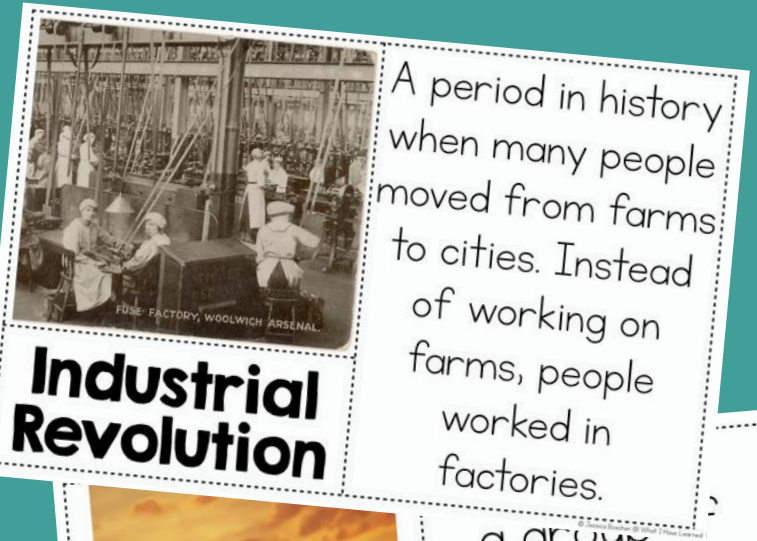


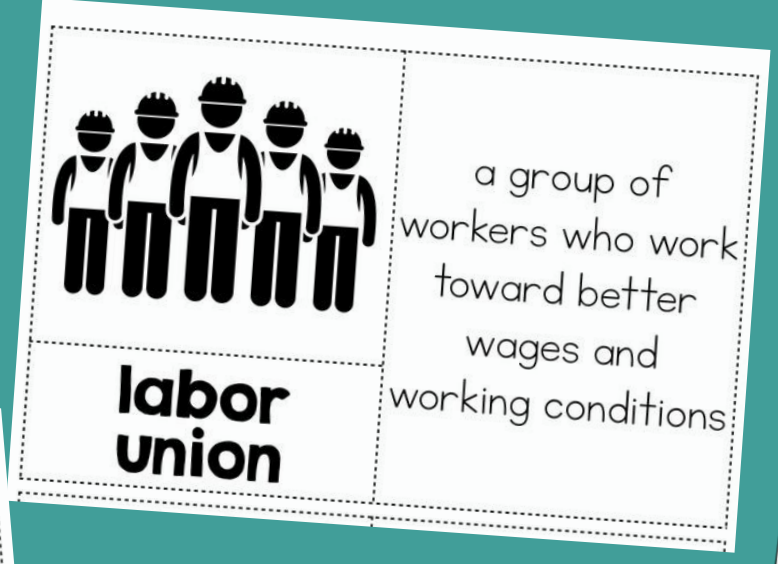
LEARN ABOUT LABOR DAY





VOCABULARY ACTIVITIES















DIFFERENTIATED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

COMPREHENSION ACTIVITIES

NOTE-TAKING SHEETS

