

# Memorial Day Questions

1. What custom began prior to the Civil War?
2. What was Memorial Day referred to previously?
3. Before 1971, what day was Memorial Day always observed on?
4. What is the purpose of Memorial Day?
5. How many people live in Manitowoc?
6. Which wars had more battle deaths than the population of Manitowoc?
7. What do you think the difference is between battle deaths and other deaths?

## Memorial Day Background

The custom of honoring the graves of the war dead began prior to the end of the Civil War, but the national Memorial Day holiday (or "Decoration Day," as it was originally named) was first observed on May 30, 1868, on the order of General John Alexander Logan for the purpose of decorating the graves of the American Civil War dead. With the passage of time, Memorial Day was extended to honor all those who died in service to the nation, from the Revolutionary War to the present. It continued to be observed on May 30th until 1971, when Memorial Day was declared a national holiday to be held on the last Monday in May.

Revolutionary War  
(1775-1783)  
Served: No data  
Deaths: 4,435  
Wounded 6,188

War of 1812 (1812-1815)  
Served: 286,730  
Battle Deaths: 2,260  
Wounded: 4,505

Mexican War (1846-1848)  
Served: 78,718  
Battle Deaths: 1,733  
Other Deaths: 11,550  
Wounded: 4,152

Civil War (1861-1865)  
Served: 2,213,363  
Battle Deaths: 140,414  
Other Deaths: 224,097  
Wounded: 281,881

Spanish-American War  
(1895-1902)  
Served: 306,760  
Battle Deaths: 385  
Other Deaths: 2,061  
Wounded: 1,662

World War I (1917-1918)  
Served: 4,734,991  
Battle Deaths: 53,402  
Other Deaths: 63,114  
Wounded: 204,002

World War II (1941-1946)  
Served: 16,112,566  
Battle Deaths: 291,557  
Other Deaths: 113,842  
Wounded: 671,846

Korean War (1950-1953)  
Served: 5,720,000  
Battle Deaths: 33,651  
Other Deaths: 3,262  
Wounded: 103,284

Vietnam War (1964-1973)  
Served: 8,744,000  
Battle Deaths: 47,378  
Other Deaths: 10,799  
Wounded: 153,303

Gulf War (1990-1991)  
Served: 24,100  
Deaths: 294

Iraqi War (2003-11)	Afghan War (2001-)
Served: 200,000	Served:
Deaths: 4,294	Deaths: 2,226
Wounded: 31,249	Wounded: 18,188