

What is Memorial Day?



Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States.

Schools and government offices are closed.

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 	27	28	29	30	31

We celebrate Memorial Day the last Monday of May.



**Memorial Day started
after the Civil War.**

**People wanted to honor
loved ones killed in the war.**



**People put
flowers and flags
on soldiers' graves.**



**People held ceremonies
to honor the dead.**



**After World War I,
Memorial Day became a day
to honor all U.S. soldiers
killed in battle.**

People still put flags on graves.

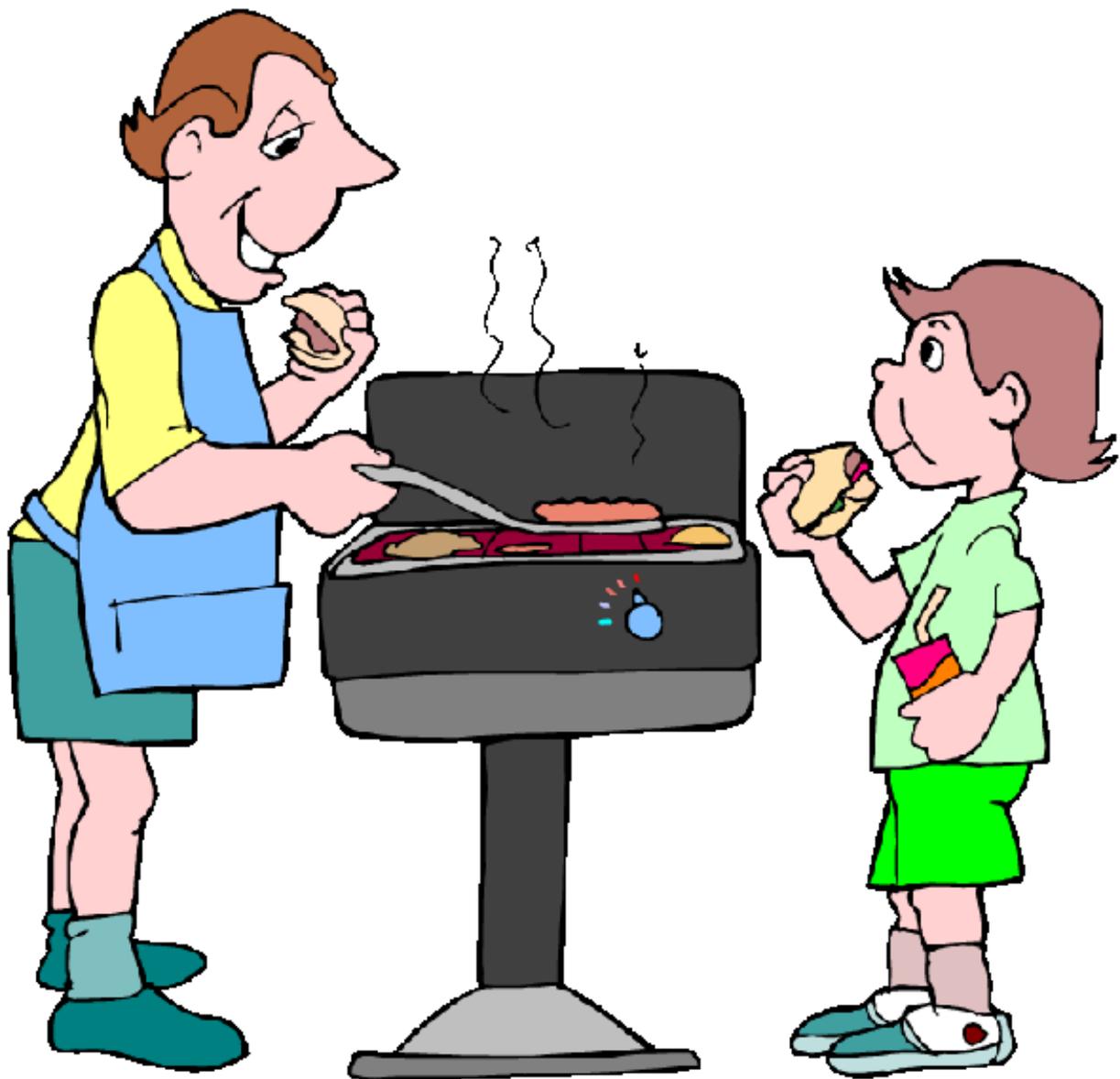


People buy red paper poppies in honor of those who have died. The money from poppy sales helps disabled and needy soldiers.

A tag on each poppy reads,
"Honor the dead by
helping the living."



**Many people also
consider Memorial Day
the start of the
summer vacation season.**



People barbecue.



Families have picnics.



**People also honor
soldiers with parades ...**



and fireworks.



Most importantly,
they teach their children
to remember the
price of liberty.