

# SummerReads: Memorial Day - The First Day of Summer

by Alice Lee Folkins

This text is provided courtesy of Elfrieda H. Hiebert and TextProject.



Driver Hélio Castroneves practices for the Indy 500 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, May 2009.

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There are many outdoor things for people to do and see on Memorial Day. One exciting event is the Indianapolis 500 or the Indy 500. The first Indy 500 took place on Memorial Day 1911 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Every Memorial Day since then, drivers race special cars around a track 200 times. Why 200 times around the track? This is because drivers need to drive 200 laps to finish 500 miles on the track. For people not driving in the Indy 500, they can cheer on their favorite driver from the stands.

You can also cheer on your favorite baseball team on Memorial Day. Many baseball teams will play games on Memorial Day. Throughout the game there may be special things to celebrate Memorial Day. For example, a soldier who has just returned home may throw the first pitch of the game. A group of military soldiers may also sing at the baseball game. As the soldiers sing, everyone will stand up, take off their hats and place their hats or hands over their hearts.

Most often, people spend Memorial Day with their friends and family. Since the weather is usually warm, many people have picnics or cookouts. A park is often a nice place to visit on Memorial Day. Many parks are free to visit, and some even allow pets. There are play areas, and large grassy fields to play sports and to relax. Memorial Day is usually the first day people get to do things that they enjoy doing in the summer. How will you spend the first day of summer?

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1.** According to the text, on what day are there many outdoor things for people to do and see?

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**2.** What is something that people can do on Memorial Day? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

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**3.** What is the main idea of this text?

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