

## Northwest History Consortium

### We Want You to Recommend a New Public Holiday!

Amy Coleman  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### National Standard

#### **Era 4: Expansion and Reform**

#### **Topic 3: The History of the United States / Standard 4D**

*Standard 4D: The student understands events that celebrate and exemplify fundamental values and principles of American democracy.*

*K-4: Therefore the student is able to describe the history of holidays, such as the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, Veterans' Day, and Thanksgiving, that celebrate the core democratic values and principles of this nation. Demonstrate and explain the influence of ideas.*

*3-4: Therefore the student is able to describe the history of events, such as the signing of the Mayflower Compact and the Declaration of Independence, and the writing of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Emancipation Proclamation. Demonstrate and explain the influence of ideas and beliefs.*

#### Washington State EALRs

*Communication 3: The student uses communication skills and strategies to present ideas and one's self in a variety of situation.*

*Communication 4: The student analyzes and evaluates the effectiveness of communication.*

*History 1: The student examines and understands major ideas, eras, themes, developments, turning points, chronology, and cause-effect relationship in United States, world, and Washington State history.*

#### BACKGROUND

#### Current Public Holidays:

**January 1:** New Year's Day

**January:** Martin Luther King Day

**January:** Inauguration Day (only in the year after a Presidential election)

**February:** Presidents' Day

**May:** Memorial Day

**July 4:** Independence Day

**September:** Labor Day

**October:** Columbus Day

**November:** Veterans' Day

**November:** Thanksgiving Day

**December 25:** Christmas Day

As a class discuss the importance and meaning of these holidays, and review the democratic ideals of the Constitution. The students will use their textbook, teacher selected books/materials, and websites to draw information from. (NOTE: This would be done after Constitution Day because we discuss the Constitution and democratic ideals before and afterwards.) Also, share the standards with the students so that they always know what they are learning, why they are learning a particular concept or information, and how they will be assessed.

"Most American holidays honor events or individual[s] [in] US history."

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“There are 11 Congressionally-delegated federal holidays; see Title V of the United States Code (5 U.S.C. § 6103).” Congressional holidays apply only to employees of the federal government, although they are often adopted by other places like schools and banks. “The 1968 Uniform Holidays Bill (Public Law 90-363 was designed to insure federal employees had a three-day weekend on Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Columbus Day. Otherwise, when a holiday falls on a Saturday, it is celebrated the day before; when a holiday falls on a Sunday, it is celebrated the following day.

1. New Year's Day, January 1.
2. Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., the third Monday in January
3. Inauguration Day, January 20 in the year after a presidential election; . . .
4. Washington's Birthday, the third Monday in February
5. Memorial Day, the last Monday in May
6. Independence Day, July 4
7. Labor Day, the first Monday in September
8. Columbus Day, the second Monday in October
9. Veterans Day, November 11
10. Thanksgiving Day, the fourth Thursday in November
11. Christmas Day, December 25

Local and state governments establish their own holiday schedules, as do businesses. Most US retailers are closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Most American holidays honor events or individual[s] instrumental in US history. Two are more universally celebrated: Christmas Day and New Year's Day.”

Washington State observes the following “public” holidays:

#### History

**New Year's Day** is a holiday in most countries.

**Martin Luther King Day**, celebrating the birth of the civil rights leader, is the most recent federal holiday. The movement for this recognition began after his death in 1968. In 1983, Congress passed the **King Day Bill**.... The law went into effect in 1986 and in 2000; the day was finally celebrated in all 50 states. [Any other leaders or special individuals that we should celebrate as a nation?]

**Presidents' Day** In 1879, Congress declared that Washington's Birthday would be a federal holiday. In 1968, Congress shifted the commemoration date of 22 February to the third Monday in February. We celebrate all presidents at this time. [Do any of them need their own day?]

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**Memorial Day**, formerly known as **Decoration Day**, honors the nation's war dead and is the unofficial beginning of summer.... It was created to **commemorate** [what does this word mean to you?] those who died during the . . . [Civil War] but it has . . . [evolved and now includes] other wars. [Are there any events or wars that should have their very own celebratory day?]

**Independence Day** has been celebrated on the 4th of July since 1777, and it commemorates the Declaration of Independence of 4 July 1776.

**Labor Day** marks the unofficial end of summer. It used to also mark the return to school (K-12) but many schools begin in August today. It was designed to celebrate the achievements of workers (labor) in 1882. . . . [Any other achievements of a large group of people that **exemplified** democratic ideals and values? What does exemplify mean?]

**Columbus Day** recognizes the man traditionally credited with discovering the Americas. . . . The first US Columbus Day celebration was held in New York in 1792. Since 1971, Columbus Day is commemorated on the second Monday in October. . . . [Are there other explorers or groups that we could celebrate?]

**Veterans Day** honors all veterans of the United States armed forces and is also a state holiday in all 50 states. In other places around the world, this celebration is known as Armistice Day or Remembrance Day. This holiday is formally celebrated only by federal and state governments and banks. [Any events in particular or ones that you remember which you think need a day of commemoration?]

**Thanksgiving** is celebrated the fourth Thursday in November. Its history begins with the first European settlers: in Virginia in 1619 and Massachusetts in 1621. The First National Proclamation of Thanksgiving was given by the Continental Congress in 1777. Then in 1789, George Washington created the first Thanksgiving Day designated by the US government. However, it was not until Abraham Lincoln declared a national day of thanks in 1863 that the holiday became an annual one.

**Christmas** celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ and is the only Congressionally-recognized religious holiday.”

Gill, Kathy. “Public Holidays In The United States.” ©2010 About.com. [About.com \(A New York Times Company\)](http://uspolitics.about.com/od/usgovernment/a/public_holidays.htm). ©1996 – 2010. New York, NY. 19 July 2010 <[http://uspolitics.about.com/od/usgovernment/a/public\\_holidays.htm](http://uspolitics.about.com/od/usgovernment/a/public_holidays.htm)>. Reprinted with permission.

### SCENARIO

The President of the United States has decided that a new holiday will celebrate core democratic values and the ideals of our nation. Many schools have been selected to choose a date and explain why that particular date or event should be celebrated. Our school is one of those chosen!

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#### **TASKS**

1. As a group you will brainstorm; view the websites that are suggested and take notes; check out the books that the teacher shows you and take notes; use books, articles, or website information that you have brought from home, which must be approved by the classroom teacher first; and then agree on a date or event that should be a new public holiday.
2. Each member will have a job. Remember that you are responsible for doing your own job, not anyone else's. You will be completing a rubric for each member of your group (rating how well that person did their job).
3. Your group will create a poster detailing the date or event that you chose with an explanation telling the class why that date or event should be a public holiday.
4. You will complete a rubric for the content of the poster. Remember that you must include information about the democratic ideals that we have discussed in class.
5. Your group will deliver your presentation.

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RESOURCES

# Project Checklist

## National Holiday

### Responsibilities:

- Go to School/Public Library
- Research on Web
- Set Goals
- Group Work
- Put Project Together
- Present Project

### Deadlines:

- Research \_\_\_\_\_
- Poster \_\_\_\_\_
- Presentation \_\_\_\_\_

### Research Materials:

- Books 
  - My books
  - Books from public library
  - Books from school library

Websites

- Pictures 
  - Pictures from books
  - Pictures off web

### Project Parts:

Poster

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## **We Want You to Recommend a New Public Holiday!**

### Use this form for your sources documentation

Document: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Book**

Lambert, Dale A. and Lambert, Laura A. Washington Past and Present. East Wenatchee, WA: Directed Media, Inc., 1998.

**ASSESSMENT**

Students will work as a group to research, create a poster, and present their recommendation. Rubrics will be used to ascertain group participation performance and the development and delivery of the poster presentation.

Group: \_\_\_\_\_

### Group Work Rubric

Requirement	Attempted <b>1</b>	Acceptable <b>2</b>	Admirable <b>3</b>	Awesome <b>4</b>
<b>Contributions</b>	-Seldom cooperative -Did not do any work -Rarely offered useful ideas	-Sometimes cooperative -Could have done more -Sometimes offered useful ideas	-Cooperative -Did their part of the work -Usually offered useful ideas	-Always willing to help and do more -Did more than others -Routinely offered useful ideas
<b>Working with others</b>	-Rarely listens to, shares with, or supports the efforts of others. -Often is not a good team member	-Often listens to, shares with, and supports the efforts of others. -Sometimes not a good team member	-Usually listens to, shares with, and supports the efforts of others. -Does not cause problems in the group	-Always listens to, shares with, and supports the efforts of others. -Tries to keep people working together.
<b>Focus on the task</b>	-Does not focus on the task and what needs to be done. -Lets others do the work.	-Sometimes focuses on the task and what needs to be done. - Other group members must prod and remind to keep this person on task.	-Focuses on the task and what needs to be done most of the time. -Group members can count on this person.	-Almost always focused on the task and what needs to be done. -This person is very self-directed.

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### *Rubric for Poster Presentation*

CATEGORY	4 Wow! Exceeds Standard	3 Good work...you met the standard	2 Below Standard...you have more work to do...see me!	1 Well below the standard...you need to see me and we will get back on track!
<b>Quality of Information</b>	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It includes several supporting details and/or examples.	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It provides 1-2 supporting details and/or examples.	Information clearly relates to the main topic. No details and/or examples are given.	Information has little or nothing to do with the main topic.
<b>Sources</b>	All sources (information and graphics) are accurately documented in the desired format.	All sources (information and graphics) are accurately documented, but a few are not in the desired format.	All sources (information and graphics) are accurately documented, but many are not in the desired format.	Some sources are not accurately documented.
<b>Diagrams &amp; Illustrations</b>	Diagrams and illustrations are neat, accurate and add to the reader's understanding of the topic.	Diagrams and illustrations are accurate and add to the reader's understanding of the topic.	Diagrams and illustrations are neat and accurate and sometimes add to the reader's understanding of the topic.	Diagrams and illustrations are not accurate OR do not add to the reader's understanding of the topic.
<b>Mechanics</b>	No grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors.	Almost no grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors	A few grammatical spelling or punctuation errors.	Many grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors
<b>Historical Accuracy</b>	All historical information appeared to be accurate and in chronological order.	Almost all historical information appeared to be accurate and in chronological order.	Most of the historical information was accurate and in chronological order.	Very little of the historical information was accurate and/or in chronological order.

*Washington EALRS: Communication 3 – The student uses communication skills and strategies to present ideas and one’s self in a variety of situations; Communication 4 – The student analyzes and evaluates the effectiveness of communication; History 1 – The student examines and understands major ideas, eras, themes, developments, turning points, chronology, and cause-effect relationship in united States, world and Washington State history.*

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#### REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Gill, Kathy. "Public Holidays In The United States." ©2010 About.com. About.com (A New York Times Company). ©1996 – 2010. New York, NY. 19 July 2010 <[http://uspolitics.about.com/od/usgovernment/a/public\\_holidays.htm](http://uspolitics.about.com/od/usgovernment/a/public_holidays.htm)>. Reprinted with permission.

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OSPI. "Social Studies Essential Learning Requirements: Recommended Grade-by-Grade Sequence for Grade Level Expectations – K-12." Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. 2009. Olympia, WA. 19 July 2010 <<http://www.k12.wa.us/SocialStudies/pubdocs/FinalDocument-SocialStudiesGLEs-GradesK-12-12-1-08.pdf>>.