

# WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

## THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

In the U.S.A. people celebrate the birthday of their first president, George Washington. They don't always celebrate on his birth date, which is February 22, because if it falls on a weekend, people don't get the day off. So, on the third Monday in February there is a national holiday. Not everyone agrees on the name or even the reason for the holiday. A 1968 law called it Washington's Birthday. However, since the 1980s, lawmakers have tried to change the name to Presidents Day. Many people want the holiday to celebrate the birthday of another president, Abraham Lincoln, who was also born in February. Different U.S. states have renamed the day Presidents Day. And in Alabama, they call it "Washington and Jefferson Day".

The holiday honors George Washington for founding the nation. He is perhaps the most famous face in U.S. history. Up and down America, towns become red, white and blue. People put flags in their windows and hang ribbons in their gardens or outside stores. Many children learn about the history of how the United States came into being. They learn about the Revolutionary War and Washington's role in America's independence. Various communities stage pageants and festivals that re-enact the important events in Washington's life. People also eat cherry pies, a food that has become associated with his birthday. It's also a good day for shoppers, as many stores hold a sale hoping to attract customers with the day off.

## PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

### Paragraph 1

- |                                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. people celebrate the birthday of | a. or even the reason    |
| 2. They don't always celebrate on   | b. of another president  |
| 3. Not everyone agrees on the name  | c. his birth date        |
| 4. lawmakers have tried to          | d. their first president |
| 5. celebrate the birthday           | e. renamed the day       |
| 6. Different U.S. states have       | f. change the name       |

### Paragraph 2

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. honors George Washington for         | a. and hang ribbons     |
| 2. perhaps the most famous              | b. important events     |
| 3. People put flags in their windows    | c. to attract customers |
| 4. the history of how the United States | d. founding the nation  |
| 5. festivals that re-enact the          | e. came into being      |
| 6. hold a sale hoping                   | f. face in U.S. history |

**LISTENING GAP FILL**

In the U.S.A. people celebrate the birthday \_\_\_\_\_ president, George Washington. They don't always celebrate on his birth date, which is February 22, because \_\_\_\_\_ a weekend, people don't get the day off. So, on the third Monday in February there is a national holiday. Not everyone \_\_\_\_\_ name or even the reason for the holiday. A 1968 law called it Washington's Birthday. However, since the 1980s, lawmakers have \_\_\_\_\_ the name to Presidents Day. Many people want the holiday to celebrate the birthday of another president, Abraham Lincoln, who \_\_\_\_\_ in February. Different U.S. states have renamed the day Presidents Day. And in Alabama, \_\_\_\_\_ "Washington and Jefferson Day".

The holiday honors George Washington \_\_\_\_\_ nation. He is perhaps the most famous face in U.S. history. Up and down America, towns become red, white and blue. \_\_\_\_\_ in their windows and hang ribbons in their gardens or outside stores. Many children learn about the \_\_\_\_\_ the United States came into being. They learn about the Revolutionary War and Washington's role in America's independence. Various communities stage pageants and festivals \_\_\_\_\_ important events in Washington's life. People also eat cherry pies, \_\_\_\_\_ become associated with his birthday. It's also a good day for shoppers, as many stores hold a sale hoping to attract customers \_\_\_\_\_.

## WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

**Put the words into the gaps in the text.**

In the U.S.A. people \_\_\_\_\_ the birthday of their first president, George Washington. They don't always celebrate on his \_\_\_\_\_ date, which is February 22, because if it \_\_\_\_\_ on a weekend, people don't get the day off. So, on the third Monday in February there is a national holiday. Not everyone \_\_\_\_\_ on the name or even the reason for the holiday. A 1968 law \_\_\_\_\_ it Washington's Birthday. However, since the 1980s, lawmakers have tried to change the \_\_\_\_\_ to Presidents Day. Many people want the holiday to celebrate the birthday of \_\_\_\_\_ president, Abraham Lincoln, who was also born in February. Different U.S. states have \_\_\_\_\_ the day Presidents Day. And in Alabama, they call it "Washington and Jefferson Day".

*name*  
*birth*  
*agrees*  
*renamed*  
*celebrate*  
*called*  
*another*  
*falls*

The holiday \_\_\_\_\_ George Washington for founding the nation. He is perhaps the most famous \_\_\_\_\_ in U.S. history. Up and down America, towns become red, white and blue. People put flags in their windows and \_\_\_\_\_ ribbons in their gardens or outside stores. Many children learn about the history of how the United States came into \_\_\_\_\_. They learn about the Revolutionary War and Washington's \_\_\_\_\_ in America's independence. Various communities stage pageants and festivals that re-enact the important \_\_\_\_\_ in Washington's life. People also eat cherry pies, a food that has become \_\_\_\_\_ with his birthday. It's also a good day for shoppers, as many stores hold a sale \_\_\_\_\_ to attract customers with the day off.

*role*  
*hang*  
*hoping*  
*events*  
*honors*  
*associated*  
*face*  
*being*

**CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD**

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

In the U.S.A. people *celebration / celebrate* the birthday of their first president, George Washington. They don't always celebrate on his birth *date / dates*, which is February 22, because if it *falling / falls* on a weekend, people don't get the day off. So, on the third Monday in February there is a *nation / national* holiday. Not everyone agrees on the name or even the reason for the holiday. A 1968 law called it Washington's Birthday. However, *since / for* the 1980s, lawmakers have tried to *change / changed* the name to Presidents Day. Many people want the holiday to celebrate the birthday of another president, Abraham Lincoln, who was also *birth / born* in February. Different U.S. states have renamed the day Presidents Day. And in Alabama, they *call / calls* it "Washington and Jefferson Day".

The holiday *honoring / honors* George Washington for *founding / finding* the nation. He is perhaps the most famous *faces / face* in U.S. history. Up and down America, towns become red, white and blue. People put flags in their windows and *hung / hang* ribbons in their gardens or outside stores. Many children learn about the history of how the United States came into *becoming / being*. They learn about the Revolutionary War and Washington's role in America's independence. Various communities stage pageants and *festive / festivals* that re-enact the important events in Washington's *living / life*. People also eat cherry pies, a food that has become associated with his birthday. It's also a good day for shoppers, as many stores hold a *sale / sales* hoping to attract customers with the day off.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

In the U.S.A. (1) \_\_\_\_\_ celebrate the birthday of their first president, George Washington. They don't always celebrate on his birth date, which is February 22, because if it (2) \_\_\_\_\_ on a weekend, people don't get the day off. So, on the third Monday in February there is a national holiday. Not everyone (3) \_\_\_\_\_ on the name or even the reason for the holiday. A 1968 law called it Washington's Birthday. However, (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the 1980s, lawmakers have tried to change the name to Presidents Day. Many people want the holiday to celebrate the birthday of (5) \_\_\_\_\_ president, Abraham Lincoln, who was also born in February. Different U.S. states have (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the day Presidents Day. And in Alabama, they call it "Washington and Jefferson Day".

The holiday (7) \_\_\_\_\_ George Washington for founding the nation. He is perhaps the most famous face in U.S. history. Up and (8) \_\_\_\_\_ America, towns become red, white and blue. People put flags in their windows and hang ribbons in their gardens or outside stores. Many children (9) \_\_\_\_\_ about the history of how the United States came into being. They learn about the Revolutionary War and Washington's (10) \_\_\_\_\_ in America's independence. Various communities stage pageants and festivals that re-enact the important (11) \_\_\_\_\_ in Washington's life. People also eat cherry pies, a food that has become associated with his birthday. It's also a good day for shoppers, as many stores hold a sale (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to attract customers with the day off.

### Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |               |              |              |                |
|-----|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) people    | (b) persons  | (c) humans   | (d) us         |
| 2.  | (a) falling   | (b) befell   | (c) fall     | (d) falls      |
| 3.  | (a) agreement | (b) agrees   | (c) agreeing | (d) agreeable  |
| 4.  | (a) for       | (b) last     | (c) since    | (d) before     |
| 5.  | (a) the other | (b) others   | (c) another  | (d) the others |
| 6.  | (a) renaming  | (b) rename   | (c) renames  | (d) renamed    |
| 7.  | (a) honors    | (b) honorees | (c) honored  | (d) honored    |
| 8.  | (a) up        | (b) around   | (c) down     | (d) in         |
| 9.  | (a) learners  | (b) learnt   | (c) learned  | (d) learn      |
| 10. | (a) roll      | (b) role     | (c) rollover | (d) rolled     |
| 11. | (a) events    | (b) eventful | (c) inventor | (d) invents    |
| 12. | (a) hopeful   | (b) hoping   | (c) hopeless | (d) hapless    |

## SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

### Paragraph 1

1. people bceeelrta
2. falls on a dekenew
3. Not everyone egsera
4. the renosa for the holiday
5. gencha the name
6. states have edmnera the day

### Paragraph 2

7. nufongid the nation
8. People put flags in their iwodswn
9. how the United States came into igenb
10. pageants and tsflvaeis
11. a good day for hpresops
12. ttartac customers

## PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) pies, a food that has become associated with his birthday. It's also a good day for
- ( ) ribbons in their gardens or outside stores. Many children learn about the history of how the United States came
- ( ) to change the name to Presidents Day. Many people want the holiday to celebrate the birthday of another
- ( **1** ) In the U.S.A. people celebrate the birthday of their first president, George Washington. They don't always
- ( ) U.S. history. Up and down America, towns become red, white and blue. People put flags in their windows and hang
- ( ) celebrate on his birth date, which is February 22, because if it falls on a weekend, people don't get the day
- ( ) reason for the holiday. A 1968 law called it Washington's Birthday. However, since the 1980s, lawmakers have tried
- ( ) shoppers, as many stores hold a sale hoping to attract customers with the day off.
- ( ) off. So, on the third Monday in February there is a national holiday. Not everyone agrees on the name or even the
- ( ) The holiday honors George Washington for founding the nation. He is perhaps the most famous face in
- ( ) stage pageants and festivals that re-enact the important events in Washington's life. People also eat cherry
- ( ) president, Abraham Lincoln, who was also born in February. Different U.S. states have renamed
- ( ) into being. They learn about the Revolutionary War and Washington's role in America's independence. Various communities
- ( ) the day Presidents Day. And in Alabama, they call it "Washington and Jefferson Day".

## SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. people president first their of birthday the celebrate

---

2. it day don't weekend falls off get , on if the people a

---

3. even the reason Not everyone agrees on the name or

---

4. the lawmakers tried change name have to

---

5. renamed Different U.S. have day states the

---

6. famous perhaps history face the He U.S. in most is

---

7. hang windows in put ribbons and their flags People

---

8. States being of United into history the came the how

---

9. become a associated food with that his has birthday

---

10. hold attract a customers sale many hoping stores to

---

**DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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**DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# THE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY SURVEY

Write five questions about Washington's Birthday in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

|      | STUDENT 1<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Q.1. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.2. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.3. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.4. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.5. |                    |                    |                    |

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



## HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find more information about Washington's Birthday. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about Washington's Birthday. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. POSTER:** Make your own poster about Washington's Birthday. Write about will happen on this day around the world.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.