



TRANSCRIPT – AMERICAN HOLIDAYS: THE VIDEO

There are 10 public holidays in the USA although there are many other celebrations. On public holidays, banks, schools, and many businesses are closed. Some of the holidays celebrate famous people or events that have been very important in American history; others come from the rich ethnic heritage of its citizens. Let's take a look at the most important ones.

Martin Luther King Jr. - Declared a holiday in 1986, this holiday celebrates the birthday and life of the famous African-American civil rights leader, Martin Luther King Jr. He was a peace activist and is known for his speech 'I have a dream'. He was assassinated in a motel in Memphis in 1968. The holiday is celebrated on the third Monday of January and ceremonies are held in his honor.

President's Day - This holiday is celebrated on the third Monday of February. It celebrates the birthdays of George Washington, the first American President, Abraham Lincoln, the president during the American Civil War, and all other American presidents. In some cities, there are parades and it's a perfect day to visit the nation's capital, Washington D.C. and the Lincoln Memorial.

Independence Day - It is also known as the 'Fourth of July' because of the date when it takes place. It is the most important national holiday because it celebrates the American declaration of Independence from Great Britain. On this day, there are parades and parties but this day is known especially for the spectacular fireworks shows all over the country.

Halloween - Halloween is not a public holiday but it deserves mention because of its importance. It happens on October 31st and is a celebration connected to evil spirits and the dead. Children wear costumes and go 'trick-or-treating'. They knock on people's doors and receive candy. Pumpkin lanterns are very common on this day.

Thanksgiving - Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. It was first celebrated in 1621 when the 'pilgrims' shared a meal with American Indians to give thanks to the harvest they had that year. Nowadays, it is a day to spend with family and share a traditional meal where 'turkey' is the principal dish. The President of the USA 'pardons' a turkey every year.