



For most of us, Labor Day is the last big splash of summer. Kids and families enjoy the long Labor Day weekend before school really gets under way. There are picnics and trips to the beach. There are parades and fireworks and band concerts.

But what is Labor Day? This week, The Mini Page explores the origins of this September holiday.

The first Labor Day

Labor Day was started more than 140 years ago. It was started by workers who were struggling for many of the rights that our workers enjoy today.

Working people wanted to call attention to some of their problems. They also wanted to honor the hard work they did.

The first Labor Day celebration took place in 1882 in New York City. About 10,000 workers took part in a Labor Day parade. Many were members of labor unions. Unions are groups that work for better pay and working conditions.

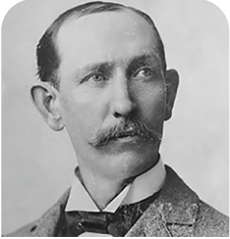
Later, there was a huge picnic and concert and speeches.



Members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers union in Peoria, Illinois, march in a Labor Day parade.



Peter J. McGuire



Matthew Maguire

Who started it?

People disagree about who is the “father” of Labor Day. Two men with similar last names are both given credit.

Some say it was Peter J. McGuire. He became the founder of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

Others say it was another Irishman by the name of Matthew Maguire, who may have had the idea for a workers’ holiday first.

McGuire proposed that the first Monday in September be set aside for a “general holiday for the laboring classes.” He chose that time because it was halfway between the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving.

President Grover Cleveland made Labor Day a federal holiday in 1894.

Modern Labor Day

Today, along with summer fun, the Labor Day weekend includes college football games, car races, picnics, concerts and fireworks.



Mini Fact:

Oregon was the first state to pass a law recognizing Labor Day, in 1887.

Be a job detective

What do you want to be when you grow up? You have years to decide, but it’s a good idea to look around today.

Ask questions. Watch what workers do. Read about careers. Work hard to build your skills in school.

We’ve identified a few job categories here. Which ones interest you?

Health care

Do you like helping people? Nurses and doctors help people stay healthy. You could also be a researcher, finding cures for diseases.



Agriculture

You could be a farmer, a florist or a scientist who studies crops.

Business

Are you good with technology? Do numbers and statistics intrigue you?

Construction and manufacturing

You might become a builder or learn how to make factories more efficient.



Public service

Many kids dream of being a police officer or a firefighter. You could also become an emergency medical technician, or EMT.

Resources



On the Web:

- [dol.gov / general / laborday / history](https://www.dol.gov/general/laborday/history)

At the library:

- “Labor Day” by Meredith Dash
- “A Children’s Guide to Labor Day” by Tex Stanly

Try ‘n’ Find

Words that remind us of Labor Day are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



BUILD, CAREER, CLEVELAND, CONCERT, EFFICIENT, FIREWORKS, HELPING, HOLIDAY, JOB, LABOR, PARADE, PAY, RIGHTS, SERVICE, SPEECH, SUMMER, UNION, WORKER.

R E K R O W K G N I P L E H L
F F I R E W O R K S Q C H Z I
S P T R E C N O C D L I U B E
U K R F S Y S T H G I R N Z E
M E F F I C I E N T V B E X D
M J O K E C I V R E S O C O A
E N O I N U L M S P E E C H R
R N B G H O L I D A Y Y Z F A
Q O S S L A B O R E E R A C P
J C L E V E L A N D K Z X P X

Cook’s Corner

Rosy Red Chicken

You’ll need:

- 3/4 cup tomato juice
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce

- 3 chicken breasts
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder



What to do:

1. In a small bowl, combine tomato juice, onion and soy sauce. Mix well.
2. Place chicken breasts in an 8-by-8-inch microwave-safe baking dish.
3. Sprinkle garlic powder evenly over chicken.
4. Pour tomato juice mixture over chicken. Marinate several hours.
5. Place dish in microwave and cook on medium-high for a few minutes at a time, until internal temperature reaches 165 degrees. Serves 3.

* You’ll need an adult’s help with this recipe.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. result of a long beach day (7) _____
2. math question (7) _____
3. online diary (4) _____
4. place to grow plants (10) _____
5. country south of the U.S. (6) _____
6. sports competitor (7) _____
7. strings in your sneakers (9) _____

PRO	NHO	ELA	URN
ATH	SUNB	BL	ICO
OG	SHO	GREE	CES
USE	BLEM	MEX	LETE

Answers: sunburn, sunburn, problem, blog, greenhouse, Mexico, athlete, shoelaces.



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Mini Jokes



Bob: What’s the best tool to use when building a playground?

Benny: A seesaw!

Eco Note



An extremely rare snowfall in northern Chile’s Atacama Desert, the driest on Earth, forced the world’s most powerful radio telescope to halt operations. The ALMA facility was placed into “survival mode” to safeguard its delicate instruments when temperatures dropped to 10 degrees Fahrenheit. The Atacama receives less than an inch of rain annually on average, making the storm highly unusual. The desert sees rain only a few times per century, with some areas never having received any reported precipitation.

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For later:

Look in your newspaper for items about Labor Day events in your community.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!

