

Martin Luther King Day

Martin Luther **KING** was the most important **black leader** of this time. He fought very hard for **the rights** of blacks in the USA. He was shot in **MEMPHIS** in Tennessee.

After his **death** (Tod) his **wife** fought on for the civil rights. 20 years later the American **government** made Martin Luther King's birthday a **public holiday** .

George Washington's birthday

This holiday is always on the **third** Monday in **February**. Americans **celebrate** (feiern) the birthday of their **first President, George Washington** .

He **led the** American soldiers against the English army in the War of **INDEPENDENCE**.

MEMORIAL DAY

On Memorial Day people remember **American soldiers** or friends who have died. This **custom** goes back to the time of the **AMERICAN CIVIL WAR**.

People put **flags** or **flowers** on the graves.

Memorial day is also the beginning of the **summer season**.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Americans celebrate Independence Day on **July 4th**. It is the birthday of **their country as a free and independent nation**.

America was once a land of colonies which belonged to **England**.

With the **declaration** of **Independence** America broke away from England and a new nation was **born/founded**: the **UNITED STATES** of America.

On this day people are very happy. They celebrate with lots of **fireworks**.

COLUMBUS DAY

Who discovered America? The Indians or Christopher Columbus? Well, in the year **1492** Columbus reached America. Indians had lived there a long time before. Because Columbus was an **Italian** , it is a very special holiday for all Italian people in America. However, he sailed for the **Spanish** king.

THANKSGIVING DAY

Americans remember the **first English** families who came to the USA. Families celebrate this day with a big **meal/dinner**. They eat a huge **turkey**.