

# STANDARD 2.5 - Holidays

The student will describe why United States citizens celebrate major holidays.

## ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS

United States citizens celebrate major holidays.

### Martin Luther King, Jr., Day:



- This is a day to remember an African American minister who worked so that all people would be treated fairly.
- It is observed in **January**.

### George Washington Day (Presidents' Day):



- This is a day when we honor **all presidents** of the United States, especially **George Washington**.
- It is observed in **February**.

### Memorial Day:



- This is a day for the recognition of and respect for Americans who **died in wars** while they were serving their country.
- It is observed in **May**.

### Independence Day (Fourth of July):



- This is a day to remember when the United States became a new country. It is sometimes called **America's birthday**.
- It is observed on **July 4th**.

### Labor Day:



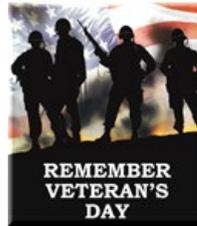
- This is a day dedicated to appreciating the contributions of the **working class** and how they help build our country's strength.
- It is observed in **September**.

### Columbus Day:



- This is a day to remember **Christopher Columbus**, who led the way for European exploration and colonization of the Americas.
- It is observed in **October**.

### Veterans Day:



- This is a day for the recognition of and respect for Americans who **served in the military**.
- It is observed on **November 11th**.

### Thanksgiving Day:



- This is a day to remember the sharing of the harvest with the **American Indians**.
- It is observed in **November**.

## STANDARD 2.13 – Patriotism



The student will understand the symbols and traditional practices that honor and foster patriotism in the United States of America by

- explaining the meaning behind symbols such as the American flag, bald eagle, Washington Monument, and Statue of Liberty; and
- learning the words and meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS**  
The United States has a national flag.

The United States has a national pledge to the flag..

### American symbols

- American flag
- Bald eagle
- Washington Monument
- Statue of Liberty

The United States has a national **pledge** to the flag.

- Pledge of Allegiance:** A patriotic **tradition** that **honors** the people and the history of the United States

Citizens say the **Pledge of Allegiance** to demonstrate **respect** for the **American flag** and the **United States**.

The Pledge of Allegiance reads, “I **pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.**”



**Pledge of Allegiance**

## STANDARD 1.12 - Virginia Symbols and Traditions

The student will recognize the symbols and traditional practices that honor the

**Commonwealth of Virginia** by

- identifying the Virginia **flag**, state **capitol** building, state **bird**, and state **flower**; and
- describing why people have **symbols** and **traditions**



### ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS

**Patriotic symbols** and **traditions honor** the people and the history of Virginia

- patriotic:** Showing respect for and love of country and state

### Patriotic symbols of the Commonwealth of Virginia

- Virginia **flag**
- State capitol **building** located in Richmond
- Cardinal** (the state bird)
- Dogwood** (the state flower)

### Terms to know

- symbol:** A picture or thing that stands for something else
- tradition:** A custom or belief that is practiced or observed over a long period of time

People use **patriotic symbols** and **traditions** to **honor** the people and the history of Virginia.

A **tradition** is a way of doing things that **can be passed down** from adults to children..