

NAME: _____

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Four-Leaf Clover

Finding a four-leaf clover is a fun tradition that has been around for many years. Really, a four-leaf clover is just a rare variation of the more common three-leaf clover. However, to many people, a four-leaf clover means so much more than that!

It has been estimated that there are approximately 10,000 three-leaf clovers to every one four-leaf clover. So to say they are uncommon would be an understatement. Sometimes they are nearly impossible to locate but trust me, they are out there hiding among the three-leaf kind.

People have wondered for years why some clovers have the special fourth leaf and most others only have three. The reason is still unknown. Some scientists believe this extra leaf is from environmental causes while others think the fourth leaf comes from a genetic mutation. Either way, they are popular and many people believe they bring good luck!

Not only do people search for these clovers to bring good fortune. People also find comfort in the meanings of the leaves. The first leaf is for faith, the second leaf is for hope, the third is for love and the fourth is for luck.

Many people have confused this rarity for the same symbol as the Shamrock seen on St. Patrick's Day. You heard right, there is no relation between the two except they are both clovers. Four-leaf clovers are a specialty all their own.



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A Timeline of Sledding

Have you ever hopped on a sled and decided to race down a snowy hill? If so, you are not alone! The wind in your face and the tickle in your stomach is enough to make sledding a very popular activity in the winter months. Sledding is a tradition that many have participated in throughout the years, but when and where did it start?

A MODE OF TRANSPORTATION

Sledding started back many years ago as the only mode of transportation for snow-covered areas of land. People would need to travel from one place to another to gather food, hunt, and survive. While walking worked for short distances, the sled was created to travel longer distances. The sled was found to be more efficient and help the traveler stay dry. Sledding cut down on travel time in a huge way and became very popular with the natives of snowy climates.

MODERN SLEDDING

Presently people use sledding as a form of recreation. When it snows outside, it is almost certain that children everywhere will dust off the old sleds and begin racing down the snowy hills. Even adults enjoy this chilly pastime as a change of pace from their everyday lives. Safety first though, it is important to wear safety gear while sledding!

A COMPETITIVE PAST AND FUTURE

While sledding started as simply transportation, it quickly changed to a competition. The timeline for sledding events is a lengthy one. People love a good competition and the slick surface of snow gives sledding a top spot on the competition list. Whether for necessity, recreation or competition, sledding is a time-honored past time for people of all ages!



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Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for remembering the people who died serving our country in the military. Memorial Day is observed annually each May on the last Monday of the month. It used to be observed on May 30th each year. However, on June 28, 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. This act moved four holidays, including Memorial Day, to a specific Monday in order to create a three-day weekend. The law took effect at the federal level in 1971.

Memorial Day used to be called Decoration Day in 1882 because people would decorate the graves of veterans who had passed away, with flowers. The name gradually changed though to Memorial Day. The first widely public observance of Memorial Day was in Charleston, South Carolina on May 1, 1865. While this was the first recognized observance, there were many more before this that served as private ceremonies.

Memorial Day also traditionally marks the start of the summer vacation season. Many people use Memorial Day as a time to celebrate with friends and enjoy a three day weekend.

While it is important to enjoy our holidays and spend time with family, the meaning of Memorial Day gets lost sometimes in the middle of the celebrations. So this Memorial Day, take a moment and remember the people who have fought for our country and lost their lives. Pay tribute to these people and honor their service and memory.

