



**Building Our Future Through  
Education, History and Culture!**

SEPTEMBER  
HOLIDAYS CELEBRATIONS RECOGNITION  
in the  
VIRGIN ISLANDS of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*September  
Labor Day ... September 2<sup>nd</sup>*

*Holidays observed by the  
Virgin Islands of the United States of America  
strengthen an important process in the development of the territory.*

*Compliments of:  
Virgin Islands Department of Education  
Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education*

# Labor Day

**Labor Day**, which is celebrated on the first Monday in September, is a United States Federal holiday.

Originally organized to celebrate the strengths and contributions of various labor associations to the United States economy, it celebrated the economic and social contributions of workers. Today it is largely a day of rest.

Through research history outlines some conflicts of who first proposed it as a holiday. Credit is given to machinist Matthew Maguire, who served as secretary of the Central Labor Union (CLU) of New York in 1882, while others argue it was first proposed in May 1882 by Peter J. McGuire, American Federation of Labor, after he witnessed the annual labor festival held in Toronto, Canada.

During the Pullman Strike workers died at U.S. Military and U.S. Marshals' hands, the United States Congress unanimously voted to approve the rushed legislation that made Labor Day a national holiday. Six days after the strike ended, it was President Grover Cleveland who signed it into law. Initially the date in September was chosen by the CLU of New York and observed by many of the nation's trade unions for several years rather than the more widespread International Workers' Day. This is due to President Cleveland's concern that the observance of the latter would be associated with the nascent Communist, Syndicalist and Anarchist movements that, though distinct from one another, had rallied to commemorate the Haymarket Affair in International Workers' Day. All the United States, the District of Columbia, and the territories have made it a statutory holiday.

On February 21, 1887, Oregon became the first state to make it a holiday. However, it was about seven years later in 1894 that it became a federal holiday. Between those years, thirty states officially celebrated Labor Day.

On the mainland many mark Labor Day as the end of the summer season and a last chance to make trips or hold outdoor events. In the Virgin Islands of the United States of America as most holidays, Labor Day is celebrated with family and friends, relaxing, having barbecues and attending beach gatherings.



Suggested Family and Classroom Activities:

Participate in a Labor Day event

Organize and orchestrate a Labor Day event

Research about the importance and history of Labor Day and share what you learn in a creative manner

Courtesy of

Text: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labor\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labor_Day); <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/labor-day>

Pictures: <http://www.parkplacemgt.com/schedule/event/office-closed-for-labor-day>



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