HOLIDAYS

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Lovin' Culture

A study of culture would not be complete without learning about Holidays. This compilation of holiday information resources is not all-encompassing by any means, but it will give the reader a basic understanding of some of the most popular holidays.

Before you start clicking the sources below, I want to say a few things about the English use of the word *holiday*. As an American, when I say "holiday," I am talking about specific important days, which some Chinse students call *festivals*. Where I'm from, we usually use the word *festival* with a different meaning. Often a festival is a specific celebration about a specific area of interest, and often lasts more than one day. For example, Traverse City, Michigan, is famous for its cherries, and is rightly hailed as the cherry capital of the world. Every summer, there is a city-wide festival called the Cherry Festival. It's not a holiday, like Christmas, but it is a celebration. On the other hand, *festival* can serve as part of the name of a holiday, as in the Chinese *Spring Festival*. Most Americans would say that Spring Festival is a holiday. We don't usually use the word festival in the same way we use the word holiday.

Another use of the word *holiday*, which is more British than American, is in reference to a vacation, or time off from work or school. We usually say, "Take a vacation," to mean time off from work, usually for a week or so, and we say, "Go on a vacation," to mean taking a trip somewhere. For just one day off from work, we usually just say, "Take a day off," not "Ask for holiday," as I sometimes hear my Chinese friends say. Holiday, vacation, and festival, in American English can be used interchangeably, but usually are not. They each have their own distinct meaning and use.

OK, now it's time to start learning about specific holidays. Click on the links below and start reading!

To learn about Chinse Holidays:
http://www.culturelanguage.org/uploads/2/5/2/5/25257288/chinese_holidays.pdf

To learn about New Year's Day:
http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/new-years
https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/new-year-day
http://fathertimes.net/traditions.htm

To learn about Valentine's Day:
http://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentine%27s_Day

Memorial Day:
http://www.usmemorialday.org/
http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/memorial-day-history

To learn about Mother's Day:
http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/mothers-day
https://www.britannica.com/topic/Mothers-Day

To learn about Father's Day:
https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/fathers-day
http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/fathers-day

To Learn about Independence Day:
http://www.holidays.net/independence/index.htm
http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/july-4th

To Learn about Labor Day (Note: Labor day, here, is not the same date as China's Labor Day.):
http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/labor-day
https://people.howstuffworks.com/culture-traditions/holidays-other/question459.htm

To Learn about Halloween:
http://www.history.com/topics/halloween

To Learn about Thanksgiving, Canada:
http://time.com/4971309/canadian-thanksgiving-2017-history/

To Learn about Thanksgiving, USA:
https://www.britannica.com/topic/Thanksgiving-Day

To learn about Christmas:
http://www.christmas.com/
http://www.history.com/topics/christmas/history-of-christmas
The website of the largest Christmas store in the world, Bronner's, in Frankenmuth, Michigan, has lots of interesting information about Christmas. Visit their site at:
https://www.bronners.com/
Or read about them at:
https://www.frankenmuth.org/things-to-do/christmas/

To learn about Boxing Day:
https://www.thespruce.com/what-is-boxing-day-435060
https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/uk/boxing-day