

National Days



Many countries have a special day each year when they celebrate a “national day”. This day is dedicated to the country’s founding or independence or even a special day for the ruler. Usually these days are a national public holiday where everyone takes the day off from work.

America’s national day is called “Independence Day” and it is held every year on July 4. This **marks** the signing of the famous **document**, The Declaration of Independence in 1776. In France, the national day is on July 14. This is the anniversary for the storming of the Bastille. It is considered the start of the French Revolution. The French fly their red, blue, and white **flag** throughout the country. There is a big military parade in Paris. Japan’s National Foundation Day is on February 11. This is to honor the crowning of Jimmu, the first emperor long ago in 660 AD. However, there are few **celebrations** on this day in Japan.

Some countries have several national days. In Spain, for example, there are four national holidays. However, a few countries do not have any national day. This includes Denmark and the United Kingdom. Recently, politicians in the United Kingdom hope for the **establishment** of a national day. Strangely, however, a British national day has been held for many years in early September in Germany. This is because a part of the British royal family in the 18th century had a German family background.



1. According to the article, what do many people do during their country's national holiday?
 - a) they go to work
 - b) they go to school
 - c) they take a vacation
 - d) they sign a document

2. The word "marks" in paragraph 2 could best be replaced by:
 - a) celebrates
 - b) scratches
 - c) traces
 - d) guides

3. The word "document" in paragraph 2 could be replaced with:
 - a) paper
 - b) license
 - c) research
 - d) application

4. According to the article, when is Japan's national day celebrated?
 - a) 1776
 - b) July 14
 - c) 660 A.D.
 - d) February 11

5. The word "flag" in paragraph 2 could best be replaced with:
 - a) banner
 - b) mark
 - c) signal
 - d) tire

6. The word "celebrations" in paragraph 2 could best be replaced with:
 - a) festivities
 - b) incidents
 - c) relatives
 - d) emperors

7. The word "establishment" in paragraph 3 could best be replaced with:
 - a) ending
 - b) continuing
 - c) creation
 - d) stopping

8. According to the article, why is the British national day celebrated in Germany?
 - a) because they are friendly nations
 - b) because Germans love England
 - c) because British politicians wanted one
 - d) because the British royals have some German background

Answers: 1. (c) 2. (a) 3. (a) 4. (d) 5. (a) 6. (a) 7. (c) 8. (d)

