



AP Human Geography

Festivals of Nations

Name: _____

Section: _____

Score: ____/5

Directions: Fill out the table below of the significance of festivals and holidays in the United States and France. In the columns explain the significance (What is being celebrated) of the holidays and their origins.

Holidays and Festivals of the United States of America (Official and Un-Official)		
Holiday	When Observed	Significance/Historical Origin (Why is it celebrated?)
<i>Martin Luther King Day</i>	Mid-January	
<i>Valentine's Day</i>	February 14 th	
<i>Presidents Day</i>	Mid-February	
<i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	March 17 th	
<i>Easter</i>	March or April	
<i>Cinco de Mayo</i>	May 5 th	
<i>Independence Day</i>	July 4 th	
<i>Labor Day</i>	Early-September	
<i>Oktoberfest</i>	September to October	
<i>Columbus Day</i>	Mid-October	
<i>Halloween</i>	October 31 st	
<i>Veterans' Day</i>	November 11 th	
<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	Late-November	
<i>Christmas Day</i>	December 25 th	

Holidays and Festivals of France (Official and Un-Official)		
Holiday	When Observed	Significance/Historical Origin (Why is it celebrated?)
<i>Epiphany Day</i>	Early-January	
<i>Mardi Gras</i>	Mid-February	
<i>Easter</i>	March or April	
<i>May Day</i>	May 1 st	
<i>Victory Day</i>	May 8 th	
<i>Bastille Day</i>	July 14 th	
<i>All Saints Day</i>	November 1 st	
<i>Armistice Day</i>	Nov 11 th	
<i>Christmas</i>	December 25 th	

Thought Questions:

1. Generally what is the difference between the holidays that American's celebrate vs. the holidays that the French celebrate? What does this reveal about the difference between the culture of France and the culture of the United States?

2. Which holiday do the French and Americans have in common (other than Christmas and Easter). Explain how they are similar. (Explain 3)