

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday (MLK Day) /mid-January**

King was the chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement, which successfully protested racial discrimination in federal and state law.

Easter / late March or early April

Children look for candy hidden in plastic eggs. The President hosts an Easter Egg hunt at the White House. Chocolate rabbits are popular, and religious families attend church services.

Independence Day / July 4

The U.S. Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776. Early American leaders told the British King they were now free and independent, leading to several years of war.

Halloween / October 31

Based on pagan holidays to remember the dead, including saints (hallows). Activities include going door-to-door to ask for candy (trick-or-treating), scary costume parties, carving pumpkins into scary faces (jack-o'-lanterns), and lighting bonfires.

Thanksgiving / late November

Families join together to give thanks. The dinner celebrates when Native Americans helped English colonists (Pilgrims) learn to farm, harvest, and survive the winter. The traditional dinner consists of foods native to the Americas, including turkey, potatoes, squash, corn, green beans, cranberries, and pumpkin pie.

The United States has many different winter holidays, including Christmas, Hanukah, and Kwanzaa. A traditional Christmas meal might be turkey or ham with cranberry sauce, breads, vegetables, and desserts. Making gingerbread houses and Christmas cookies is also popular. Santa Claus flies around the world on a sled led by reindeer, then climbs down chimneys to bring gifts to children on December 25. Both Kwanzaa and Hanukah involve lighting candles to remember important events in Black, or Jewish history, and enjoying foods traditional to those communities.

Notes:
