
UNIT THREE: HOURS & DAYS WORKED

Materials needed:

- Student pages 21 to 35
- Pages IX to XV of the Teacher Resource Section for Benchmark 3 - 4. Photocopy one set of each page for every four to five students in the class and cut along the lines so that you are prepared for the activity “Name that Holiday” that accompanies student pages 25 to 31
- Listening CD Track 3: “Hours of Work & Breaks” Reading and listening transcript

Objectives: Students will be able to...

- listen to a CD reading about hours of work and answer the multiple choice comprehension questions (pages 21 to 24)
 - list the holidays that are celebrated in each month and tell the difference between general holidays and holidays that are not general holidays (pages 25 to 31)
 - use mathematical skills to calculate general holiday pay and vacation pay (pages 32 to 35)
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1. HOURS OF WORK & BREAKS

Activation activity: THINK PAIR SHARE. Before the activity begins, the teacher can write the following questions on the board: “How many hours do you usually work for your employer in a week?” and “How many hours of overtime do you usually work in a week?” Students can discuss their answer with a partner or small group, and then the teacher can collect the answers from the class. If the students are not employed now, they can talk about a time when they were employed in the past, either in Canada or in their home country.

Activity: Depending on the level and preference of the class, the teacher can either do the activity as a listening activity, as a reading activity, or both. As a listening activity, students should just refer to pages 23 and 24 while the CD (Track 3: “Hours of Work & Breaks”) is playing and select the multiple choice answers. As a reading activity, the students can read pages 21 and 22 on their own or in a group and answer the multiple choice questions. As a listening and reading activity, the students can follow the reading (pages 21 and 22) while the CD is playing and then answer the questions by referring back to the reading.

ANSWERS FOR PAGES 23 & 24									
1 (b)	2 (b)	3 (a)	4 (a)	5 (a)	6 (a)	7 (b)	8 (a)	9 (b)	10 (b)

The teacher can go over the answers with the class after the activity and answer any questions.

2. HOLIDAYS WE CELEBRATE

Activation activity: Before the activity, the teacher should divide the students into groups and give each group a piece of paper (either loose leaf or poster paper) with some of the months written on it.

Here is one example of how the months could be divided among the groups:

GROUP ONE

January	February	March	April

GROUP TWO

May	June	July	August

GROUP THREE

September	October	November	December

The students can then spend five to 10 minutes working in their group to brainstorm all of the holidays that they can think of, either secular or religious, from their home country or Canada that might happen in those months.

Activity: The teacher should have prepared the cut out boxes with pictures of the holidays and the definitions of the holiday from pages IX to XV of the Teacher Resource Section for Benchmark 3 - 4. The students now work in groups to read the definitions for each holiday and match it with the appropriate picture. The teacher could then walk around and see if the pictures had been matched correctly. For lower level classes, the teacher could make the information self-checking by gluing the picture on coloured paper and cutting out each strip to make matching puzzle pieces. The students would then know that the answers were correct by checking to see if they fit together. While the students are working, they can discuss the holiday, and provide personal information on whether or not they celebrate that holiday.



Another option is to make one copy of the whole list and divide it among four groups of students. Each group can match their words and pictures, and then the students can walk from table to table and look at the holidays of the other groups. After the activity, the teacher can add any information necessary to explain the holidays further.

Here is the information about the holidays:

NEW YEAR'S DAY in Canada is on January 1. It is a general holiday, and it celebrates the beginning of a new year.

LOUIS RIEL DAY is Manitoba's newest general holiday. It is celebrated on the third Monday of February. It honours the memory of Louis Riel. Louis Riel lived from 1844 to 1885. He was the founder of the province of Manitoba and the leader of the Métis people.

GOOD FRIDAY is the Friday before Easter Sunday. On this general holiday Christians remember the death of Jesus Christ.

VICTORIA DAY is celebrated on the third Monday in May. This general holiday honours the memory of Queen Victoria, who lived from 1819 to 1901.

CANADA DAY is on July 1. It is a national general holiday to remember that Canada became a country on July 1, 1867. It is also called “Canada’s birthday”.

LABOUR DAY is a general holiday on the Monday after the first weekend in September. It is not on May 1 as it is in many other countries. It celebrates the rights of unions to improve the lives of workers. Many Canadians enjoy Labour Day as the last long weekend in the summer.

THANKSGIVING DAY is a general holiday on the second Monday in October. It reminds Canadians to be thankful. Many Canadians spend time with their families and eat turkey and pumpkin pie.

CHRISTMAS DAY is a general holiday on December 25. It celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. Many Canadians give gifts, decorate their homes, and spend time with their family.

NOT GENERAL HOLIDAYS

ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS is celebrated by some Eastern Orthodox churches on January 6. It is not a general holiday. **ORTHODOX NEW YEAR’S DAY** is celebrated on January 14 because the Orthodox Church uses a different calendar. It is not a general holiday.

CHINESE NEW YEAR is the most important traditional Chinese holiday. It begins on the first day of the first lunar month in the Chinese calendar. Many people who have immigrated to Canada from China celebrate it, but it is not a general holiday.

ST. VALENTINE’S DAY is on February 14. It is not a general holiday. On this day, people give love notes, flowers and chocolates to show their love.

ASH WEDNESDAY is the first day of Lent, 46 days before Easter. Lent is a time of waiting for Easter. On this day, in some churches, priests put ashes on the forehead of each person. It reminds them to be sorry for the things that they have done wrong. It is not a general holiday.

ST. PATRICK’S DAY is on March 17. It celebrates the life of Saint Patrick. Many people believe he died on March 17. It is the national holiday of the Irish people. In Canada, some people celebrate it, but it is not a general holiday.

PALM SUNDAY is on a different date every year. It is always on the Sunday before Easter. It celebrates the day Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. It is not a general holiday.

PASSOVER is celebrated on the fourteenth day of the first month of the Jewish year. On this day, Jewish people remember how the Israelites, who were slaves in Egypt, became free. In Israel, Passover is a seven-day holiday. In Canada it is not a general holiday. Many Jewish people eat special foods and say special prayers on this day.

EASTER SUNDAY is the most important religious day for Christians. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. Christians believe Jesus came to life after he died. The date of Easter is in March or April. The cycle of the moon is used to choose the date. Orthodox Christians celebrate on a different day. It is not a general holiday.

EASTER MONDAY is the day after Easter Sunday. It may be a day off for some work places, but it is not a general holiday.

CINCO DE MAYO is a Spanish sentence. It means “fifth of May” in English. It is celebrated on May 5 in Mexico and in parts of the United States with food, music and dancing. In Canada, some Canadians from Mexico celebrate this day, but it is not a general holiday.

MOTHER’S DAY is on the second Sunday in May. It is a day honouring mothers. Mothers often receive gifts on this day.

FATHER’S DAY is celebrated on the third Sunday in June. It is a day honouring fathers. Fathers often receive gifts on this day.

CIVIC HOLIDAY is a day that is declared a holiday by the government. In Manitoba, the civic holiday is always on the first Monday in August. The employer can decide to give his/her employee the day off with pay. It is not a general holiday.

RAMADAN is the Islamic month of fasting. During this time, Muslims must not eat or drink when the sun is shining. They can eat or drink when the sun goes down. The fasting lasts for 29 or 30 days. The days in Ramadan are not general holidays.

ROSH HASHANAH is the beginning of the Jewish year. It is a serious day. Jewish people think about what they have done wrong in the past. There are special foods and prayers during this time. It is not a general holiday.

YOM KIPPUR is after Rosh Hashanah. Jewish people say sorry for what they have done wrong in the past. They may fast and pray. It is not a general holiday.

HALLOWEEN is on October 31. In Canada, children often dress in costumes and go from door to door. They ring each doorbell, say “Trick or treat!” and collect candy in a pillow case or other container.

ISLAMIC NEW YEAR is based on the Islamic calendar, which has only 354 days. It is celebrated on Muharram 1, which is the first day of the Islamic calendar. It is not a general holiday.

REMEMBRANCE DAY is on November 11. It is to remember that World War I ended on November 11 in 1918. In Canada, Remembrance Day is a holiday for federal government employees. It is not a general holiday.

HANUKKAH is also called the Festival of Lights. It is an eight-day Jewish festival. The Hebrew calendar is used to decide the date of the festival. Each night one candle is lit and a story of the Jewish people is remembered.

BOXING DAY is on December 26. On Boxing Day many retail stores have big sales. Some shoppers will line up outside for many hours at night waiting for the store to open. It is not a general holiday, but some employers don’t make their employees work on this day.

KWANZAA is from December 26 to January 1. It celebrates African American culture. It is not a religious holiday. It was created in 1966 to remember African culture. It is not a general holiday.

3. GENERAL HOLIDAY PAY

Activation activity: The teacher can now hand out student pages 25 to 31 to the students and explain the difference between general holidays (also called “statutory holidays” or “stats”) and holidays that are not general holidays. The difference is that employers have an obligation to pay their staff at least part of their wages for a general holiday, but they are under no obligation to pay anything for the other holidays.

The teacher should explain to the students that there is now a formula for the minimum amount that the employer needs to pay an employee for a general holiday. If a person is working full time, five days a week, then the general holiday pay will be equal to exactly the same as a regular day of work. If they are working half time, the formula for the general holiday will give them roughly half the pay that they would normally receive for a day’s work.

Activity: Students receive student pages 32 and 33. They read the story about Tamaki on page 32 and look at the calendar on page 33 to answer the questions.

ANSWERS FOR PAGES 32

1. (a) November 27
(b) \$1070
(c) $\$1070 \text{ times } 0.05 = \53.50
2. (a) December 4
(b) $\$800 \text{ plus } \$53.50 = \$853.50$
(c) $\$853.50 \text{ times } 0.05 = \42.68
3. Christmas day. Christmas Day received more holiday pay because Tamaki did not work between December 25 and January 1, so her average pay per day was less.

4. VACATION TIME AND PAY

Activation activity: The teacher should explain that vacation pay is different from general holiday pay. Vacation pay is money set aside for the employee to use while they are away from work for a period of time on vacation.

Activity: Students read pages 34 and 35 and answer the questions. The teacher should go over the answers with the class after the students are done.

ANSWERS FOR PAGE 35

1. His vacation pay is based on his first year of work. He receives ($\$20\,000 \text{ times } 4\% = \800) for his two-week vacation.
2. He will receive $\$30\,000 \text{ times } 6\%$, which is equal to $\$1800$ for his three-week vacation.
3. She received $\$1000 \text{ times } 4\%$, or $\$40$ of vacation pay on that pay cheque.



END OF UNIT THREE