

JIM C'S QUIZ OF THE WEEK

MONDAY - 8/06/2007

The month of August does not have one legal holiday, but it is the month when most of us typically enjoy a summer vacation.

HOW DID THE TERM “*HOLIDAY*” ORIGINATE?

Columbia Encyclopedia: “Day set aside for the commemoration of an important event. Holidays are often accompanied by public ceremonies, such as parades and carnivals, and by religious observances; they may also be simply a time for relaxation.”

Online Etymology: “Old English *haligdæg*, from *halig* "holy" + *dæg* "day;" in 14th century meaning both "religious festival" and "day of recreation," but pronunciation and sense diverged in 16th century.”

Originally, holidays were predominantly religious in character – they were typically linked to natural events. Then, secular holidays commemorating historical occasions or distinguished persons began to easily outnumber the traditional holy days.

In the U.S., holidays for banks, schools, other public institutions, or private commercial businesses become legal holidays only when designated by legislative enactment or by executive proclamation.

CW: Holiday = A day of commemoration and a long weekend

Moment of Zen: The axiom, observe and adapt, applies to our lexicon just as it applies to all living things.