

# Labour Day

**What is Labour Day? Narrate the story of how this day came about.**

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**Why is it celebrated?**

**How is it celebrated today?**

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**When is it celebrated in each state?**

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**Application: What does it mean to me? What significance do the events in the late 1850's have for me?**

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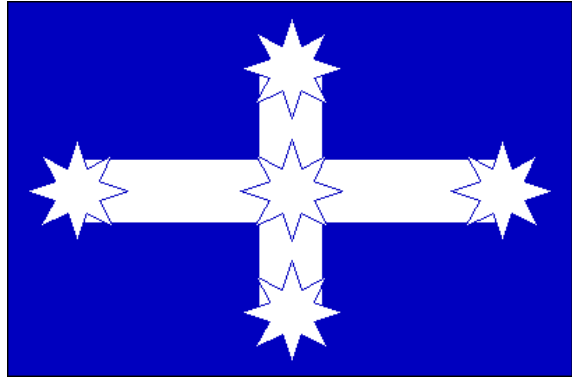
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**Eureka Flag**

The *Eureka Flag* is carried often by unions and other groups in processions such as the Labour Day parade.

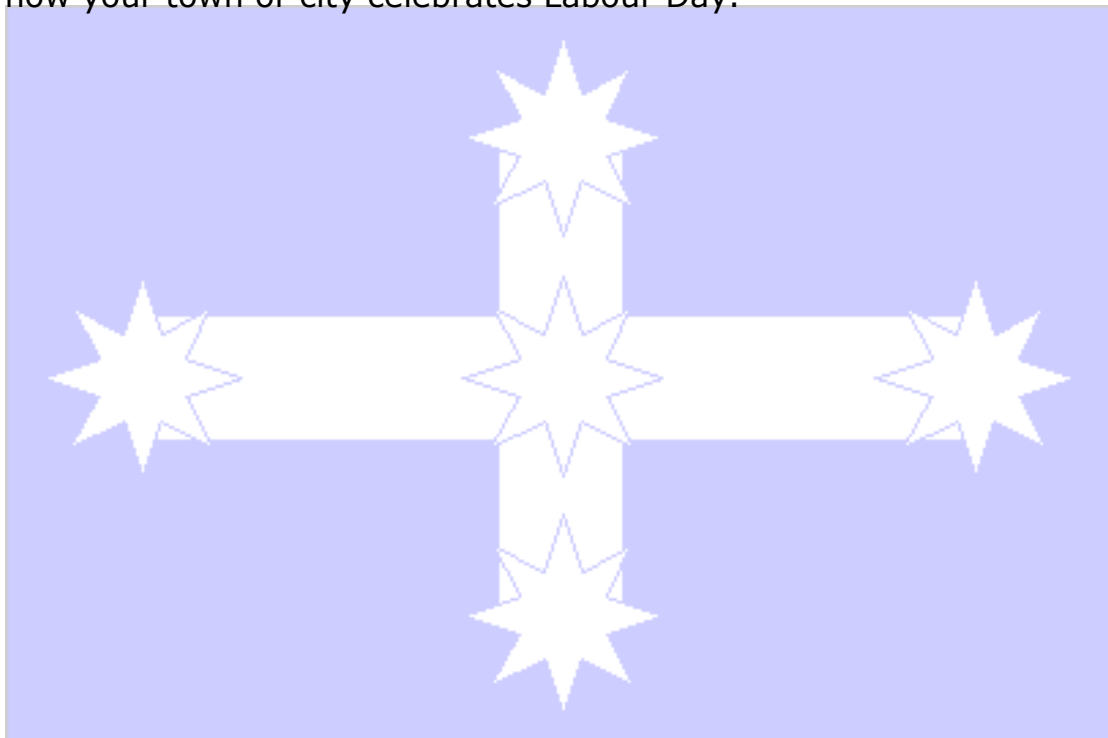
**Why is this flag an important symbol today?**

A large rectangular area with a light blue background, featuring a faint watermark of the Eureka Flag. This area is divided into horizontal lines for writing. Below this area, there are several more horizontal lines for additional writing.

## Information for parents

Labour Day is a public holiday in recognition of when workers won the right to a reduced work day of 8 hours in the late 1850's. Their struggle was founded under the philosophy that each day should consist of 8 hours for work, 8 hours for recreation and 8 hours for sleep. The Stonemason's spearheaded this campaign and after a long battle, the unions eventually achieved their aim and they held parades to celebrate the victory. Before this time, workers were required to work 10 to 12 hour days, six days a week. The five-day 40-hour week was achieved almost a century later in 1948.

The first parade was held in Melbourne on 21st April 1856. Find out how your town or city celebrates Labour Day.



# Happy Labour Day!