



A Day for Us from Atatürk

Besides being a national holiday, 19 May the Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day, is also so important to us youths. It is a day given us by Atatürk, so every year we try to celebrate it enthusiastically. We express our excitement, happiness and also sadness in the celebrations we make. Firstly, we sing the national anthem and recite poems. Later we play sports, make parades and cultural activities like performing folk dances. We play epic drama to commemorate the beginning of the national struggle in 1919 that would lead to Atatürk and his companions establishing the Republic of Turkey in 1923.



It also has a different meaning for the Turkish public because it is regarded as Atatürk's birthday. Atatürk was born in 1881. But his exact birth date is unknown. In one of his speeches, he declared that he considered his birthday as 19 May, in clear reference to the beginning of the national struggle in 1919. For

so many reasons, the Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day has a special place in our hearts.

We should thank Atatürk for giving us a day on which we can feel happiness, excitement, honour, sadness, and longing all at the same time. Happy 19 May to all of you!