

Mother's Day

Mother's Day is an annual celebration. It is a day for people to say thank you to their mothers and mother figures, such as grandmas, aunts or guardians, and to show that they appreciate everything they have done to help them.

Mothering Sunday

The Mother's Day celebrated now is said to be based on the early Christian festival known as 'Mothering Sunday'. The importance of this day is a reflection of family life in the 16th century.

During the 1500s, it was common for children to leave home around the age of ten years old so that they could begin earning a small income and support their family. Many children began to work as domestic servants in wealthy households. Girls would become housemaids while boys tended to the horses in the stables. They were rarely allowed to go home.

One rare occasion where domestic servants were allowed to leave work was on the fourth Sunday of the season of Lent, known as Laetare Sunday. On this special day, domestic servants were given the day off so that they could spend time with their families and visit their 'mother' church. This was the main church in their town, the church they had been baptised in, or their local cathedral. As they walked home, children would pick the wild flowers, which grew along the side of the paths, to give to their mothers as a small gift.



Mothering Sunday vs Mother's Day

As time passed, this tradition continued and changed into what was known as Mothering Sunday. In the early 1900s, UK shopkeepers began to realise how popular Mothering Sunday was becoming and saw a chance to make the occasion profitable. They began to sell cards and gifts specifically for this purpose and advertised the day as 'Mother's Day'.

Over time, the wild flowers picked by children were replaced by shop-bought gifts and, although children no longer worked as domestic servants, the fourth Sunday in the season of Lent continued to be set aside as a special day for families to spend time together. People in the UK and Ireland started to celebrate

'Mother's Day' on the same day that Mothering Sunday had been celebrated. The two celebrations have now been mixed up, with many people thinking that they are the same thing.

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Just as the fourth Sunday in the season of Lent is now often known as both Mothering Sunday and Mother's Day, there are many other names given to this day.

Many people refer to this day by a name related to eating, such as Refreshment Sunday, Simnel Sunday and Pudding Pie Sunday (in the county of Surrey). These names are given to reflect how cakes – especially Simnel cakes – would be baked to celebrate families coming back together on this day or eaten on a break from fasting during Lent.

Amongst Christian communities, the date is also sometimes referred to as Rose Sunday. This is in relation to the colour of robes worn in the church. On this day, the robes change from purple to pink – the colour of the rose.

Glossary

Annual – Something which happens once every year.

Cathedral – A very large church which the bishop is linked to.

Questions

1. Which of these roles would female domestic servants undertake? Tick one.

- ☐ stable hand
- ☐ groundskeeper
- ☐ housemaid
- ☐ butler

2. What gift would children traditionally give to their mothers?

3. Give three examples of a 'mother church'.

1.

2.

3.

4. Find and copy one word from the fifth paragraph that shows that Mothering Sunday had become very well-known?

5. Match the fact to the event it describes.

Simnel Sunday	•	celebrated in the 16 th century	•
Laetare Sunday	•	invented in the 1900s	•
Mother's Day	•	invented in the 1900s	•

6. Do you think that celebrating Mother's Day is a good thing? Explain your thinking.

7. Why do many of the names given to the fourth Sunday of Lent relate to eating?

8. Why do you think that wild flowers were replaced by shop-bought presents?

Answers

1. Which of these roles would female domestic servants undertake? Tick one.

- ☐ stable hand
- ☐ groundskeeper
- ☒ **housemaid**
- ☐ butler

2. What gift would children traditionally give to their mothers?

Children would traditionally give wild flowers to their mothers.

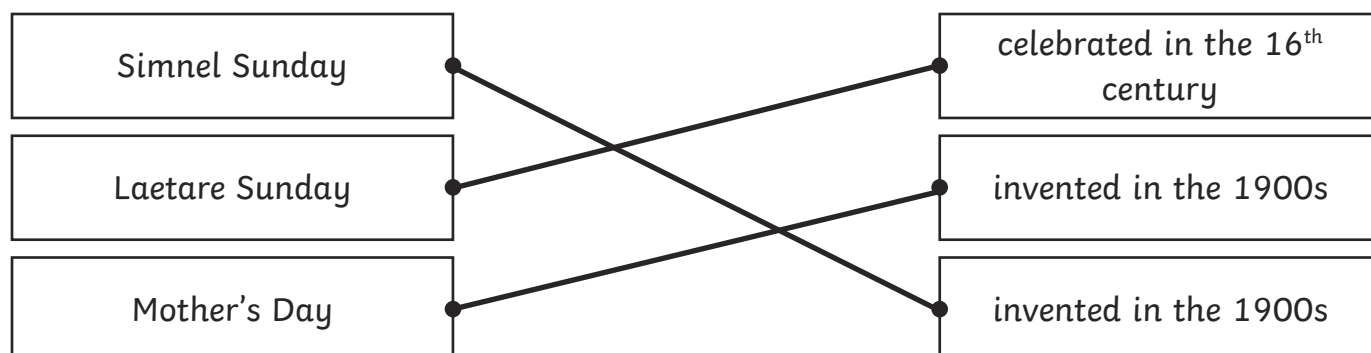
3. Give three examples of a 'mother church'.

Accept the following three answers: the main church in their town; the church they had been baptised in; the local cathedral.

4. Find and copy one word from the fifth paragraph that shows that Mothering Sunday had become very well-known?

popular

5. Match the fact to the event it describes.



6. Do you think that celebrating Mother's Day is a good thing? Explain your thinking.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I think celebrating Mother's Day is a good thing because it is a good chance to say thank you for what your mum does for you.

7. Why do many of the names given to the fourth Sunday of Lent relate to eating?

Many of the names given to the fourth Sunday of Lent relate to eating because a cake was traditionally baked as a celebration and cake was eaten as a break from fasting during Lent.

8. Why do you think that wild flowers were replaced by shop-bought presents?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that wild flowers were replaced by shop-bought presents because they were more impressive and people started to earn enough money to buy presents instead.

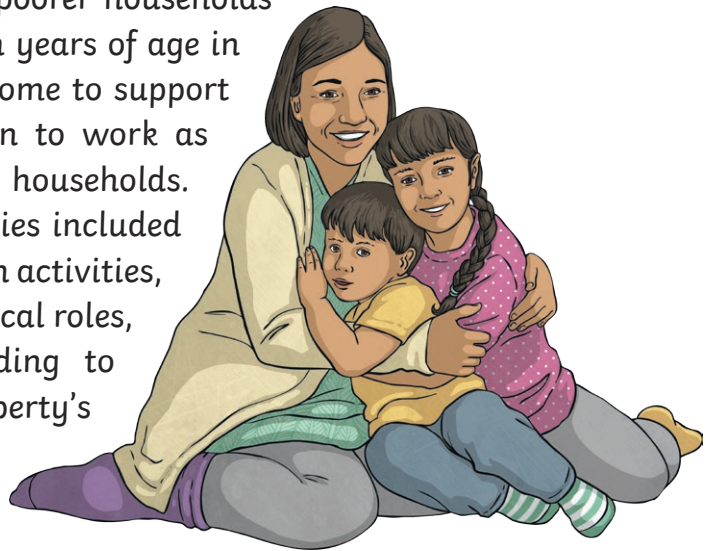
Mother's Day

Mother's Day is an annual celebration on which people thank their mothers and mother figures (such as grandmas, aunts or guardians) in appreciation of everything they have done to help them both over the past twelve months and their lifetime.

Mothering Sunday

The Mother's Day we celebrate now is said to be based on the early Christian festival known as 'Mothering Sunday' – a significant event within family life during the 16th century.

During this period, children from poorer households commonly left home at around ten years of age in order to begin earning a small income to support their family. Many children began to work as domestic servants in wealthy households. Females became maids, whose duties included attending to housework and kitchen activities, while males would take more physical roles, such as cleaning stables, attending to animals and maintaining the property's gardens. Regardless of their role, domestic servants lived in the same place that they worked. They were rarely allowed to go home.



One rare occasion when domestic servants were allowed to leave work was on the fourth Sunday of the season of Lent, known as Laetare Sunday. On this day, domestic servants were given time off so that they could spend time with their families and visit their 'mother' church – the main church in their town, the church they had been baptised in or the nearest cathedral (a large church with links to the local bishop). While walking home, the returning children would often pick the wild flowers, which grew along the side of the paths, to place in the church or give to their mothers as a small token of their love.

Mother's Day

Over time, this practice continued and evolved into the non-religious tradition of giving gifts to mothers – known as Mothering Sunday. In the early 1900s, UK merchants began to realise how popular Mothering Sunday was becoming and saw an opportunity to make the tradition profitable. They began to sell cards and gifts specifically for this purpose and advertised the day as 'Mother's Day'.

Over time, the wild flowers picked by children were replaced by shop-bought gifts and, although children no longer worked as domestic servants, the fourth Sunday in the season of Lent continued to be set aside as a special day for families to spend time together. People in the UK and Ireland started to celebrate 'Mother's Day' on the same day that Mothering Sunday had been celebrated, with many people confusing the two celebrations and mistaking them for the same thing.

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Just as the fourth Sunday in the season of Lent is now often known as both Mothering Sunday and Mother's Day, there are many other names given to this day.

Amongst Christian communities, the fourth Sunday in Lent is sometimes referred to as Rose Sunday. This is in relation to the colour of robes worn in the church. On this day, the robes change from purple to pink – the colour of the rose.

Many people also refer to this day by names which relate to eating, such as Refreshment Sunday, Simnel Sunday and (in the county of Surrey) Pudding Pie Sunday. These names are given to acknowledge how cakes – especially Simnel cakes – would be baked to celebrate families coming back together on this day. Simnel cakes are a popular dessert associated with Mother's Day. They are light fruit cakes topped with eleven balls of marzipan – a white or yellow almond paste. Cakes would also be eaten as a break from fasting on the middle Sunday of Lent.

Questions

1. For which two reasons were domestic servants given time off on Laetare Sunday? Tick two.
 - ☐ to rest and recuperate
 - ☐ to visit their mother church
 - ☐ to spend time with their family
 - ☐ to attend to errands and duties
2. How many balls of marzipan can be found on top of a Simnel cake? Tick one.
 - ☐ 10
 - ☐ 11
 - ☐ 12
 - ☐ 13
3. Find and copy one phrase from the second paragraph which implies that it is uncertain exactly what the modern tradition of Mother's Day is based on.

4. What is the fourth Sunday of Lent sometimes referred to as amongst Christian communities?

5. Why is it referred to as this?

6. What is marzipan?

7. Did people instantly start to buy presents rather than find them locally? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

8. Do you think that it would be easy to celebrate special events if you were a domestic servant? Explain your answer.

9. Explain how another celebration you know is similar to Mother's Day.

Answers

1. For which two reasons were domestic servants given time off on Laetare Sunday? Tick two.
 - ☐ to rest and recuperate
 - ☒ **to visit their mother church**
 - ☒ **to spend time with their family**
 - ☐ to attend to errands and duties
2. How many balls of marzipan can be found on top of a Simnel cake? Tick one.
 - ☐ 10
 - ☒ **11**
 - ☐ 12
 - ☐ 13
3. Find and copy one phrase from the second paragraph which implies that it is uncertain exactly what the modern tradition of Mother's Day is based on.
is said to be
4. What is the fourth Sunday of Lent sometimes referred to as amongst Christian communities?
The fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes referred to among Christians as 'Rose Sunday'.
5. Why is it referred to as this?
Rose Sunday is named in reference to the change in the colour of robes worn in the church, from purple to pink.
6. What is marzipan?
Marzipan is a white or yellow almond paste.
7. Did people instantly start to buy presents rather than find them locally? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
No, people did not instantly start to buy presents rather than find them locally because the text says that 'over time, the wild flowers picked by children were replaced by shop-bought gifts'.
8. Do you think that it would be easy to celebrate special events if you were a domestic servant? Explain your answer.
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think it wouldn't be easy to celebrate special events if you were a domestic servant because you were rarely allowed to go home and it may be difficult to buy presents for special events with the small income that you earned.
9. Explain how another celebration you know is similar to Mother's Day.
Accept any suitable comparison to any other celebration, such as: Mother's Day is similar to Father's Day because it is saying thank you to someone who looks after you.

Mother's Day

Mother's Day is an annual celebration, on which people thank their mothers and mother figures (such as grandmas, aunts, or guardians) in appreciation of everything they have done to help them both over the past twelve months and their lifetime.

Mothersing Sunday

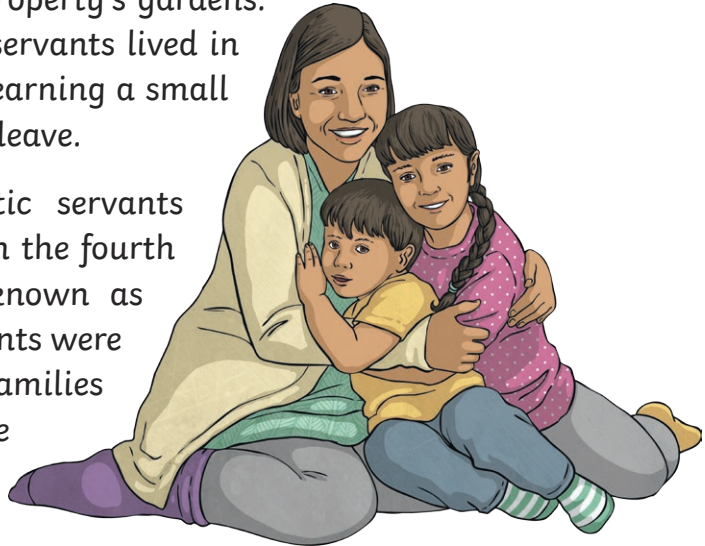
The Mother's Day we now celebrate is said to be based on the early Christian festival known as 'Mothersing Sunday' – a significant event within family life during the 16th century. During this period, children from impoverished households commonly left home at around ten years of age, in order to begin earning a small income which would be sent to support their family. Many children began to work as domestic servants in wealthy households, with females becoming maids – whose duties included attending to housework and kitchen activities – while males would take more physical roles, such as cleaning stables, attending to animals and maintaining the property's gardens.

Regardless of their role, domestic servants lived in the same place that they worked, earning a small wage and rarely being allowed to leave.

The sole occasion when domestic servants were allowed to leave work was on the fourth Sunday of the season of Lent, known as Laetare Sunday. On this day, servants were allowed to spend time with their families and visit their 'mother' church – the main church in their town, the church they had been baptised in or the nearest cathedral. While walking

home, the returning children would often pick the wild flowers, which grew along the side of the paths, to place in the church or give to their mothers as a small token of their affection.

Over time, this practice – known by this point as Mothersing Sunday – evolved into the non-religious tradition of giving gifts to mothers. In the early 1900s, merchants across the UK began to realise the popularity of the tradition and spotted an opportunity to capitalise on the event. They began to manufacture and sell cards and gifts specifically for this purpose, widely advertising the day as 'Mother's Day'.



Over time, the traditional wild flowers picked by children were replaced by shop-bought gifts and, although children no longer work as domestic servants, the fourth Sunday in the season of Lent remained set aside as a special day for families to spend time together. The modern-day celebration of Mother's Day across the UK and Ireland coincides with the traditional day of Mothering Sunday – leading many people to mistakenly believe that the two celebrations are the same.

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Just as the fourth Sunday in the season of Lent is now often known as both Mothering Sunday and Mother's Day, there are many other names given to this day. Amongst Christian communities, the fourth Sunday in Lent is sometimes referred to as Rose Sunday in relation to the transition in the colour of the robes worn in church. On this day, the robes change from purple to pink – the colour of the rose.

Many people also refer to this day by names which relate to eating, such as Refreshment Sunday, Simnel Sunday and, in Surrey, Pudding Pie Sunday. These names are given to acknowledge how cakes, especially Simnel cakes, would be baked to celebrate families coming back together on this day.

A Global Celebration

Due to efforts by the social activist Anna Jarvis, coupled with the influence of American and Canadian soldiers serving abroad during the Second World War, Mother's Day has become widely celebrated worldwide – with over 40 countries honouring mothers and motherhood each year. However, the date on which Mother's Day occurs varies widely between countries – ranging from as early as February in Norway, to as late as December in Indonesia. The most popular dates for celebrating Mother's Day are as follows:

Date	Reason for the Date	Example Countries
8 th March	on the same day as International Women's Day	Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Russia
21 st March	on the same day as the spring equinox	Egypt, Iraq, Somalia
Fourth Sunday in Lent	in line with the traditional celebration of Mothering Sunday	United Kingdom, Ireland, Nigeria
Second Sunday of May	to mark the first celebration held by Anna Jarvis	Brazil, Japan, United States

Questions

- Which of these alternative names for the fourth Sunday of Lent is used only in the county of Surrey? Tick one.
 - ☐ Refreshment Sunday
 - ☐ Simnel Sunday
 - ☐ Pudding Pie Sunday
 - ☐ Rose Sunday
- Match the sub-heading to the statement about that section's content.

Mothering Sunday

explains the history behind the modern-day Mother's Day.

The Fourth Sunday
in Lent

shows alternative dates
on which Mother's Day is
celebrated around the world.

A Global Celebration

provides alternative names
for the day on which Mother's
Day is celebrated.

- Name two countries which celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May.

- Find and copy a word from the fourth paragraph which means the same as **changed**.

- Find and copy a word or phrase from the text which shows that domestic servants were only allowed time off on Laetare Sunday.

- Explain why Mothering Sunday became a significant event within family life during the 16th century.

7. Explain what is meant by domestic service.

8. Explain where the tradition of giving flowers to mothers on this day came from.

9. Why might some countries have chosen to celebrate Mother's Day on 8th March?

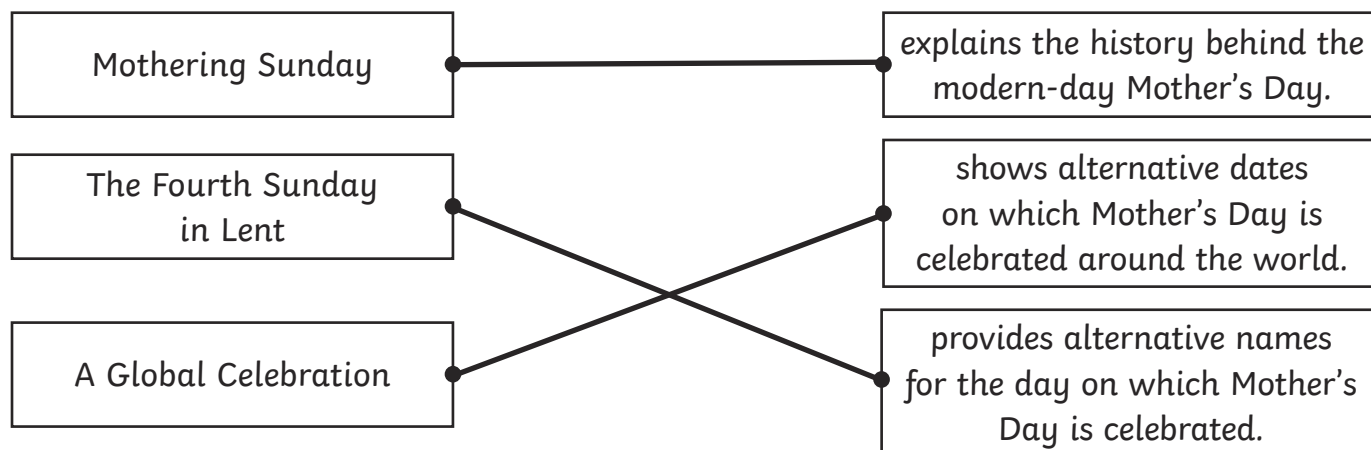
10. Do you think all countries should celebrate Mother's Day on the same date? Explain why.

Answers

1. Which of these alternative names for the fourth Sunday of Lent is used only in the county of Surrey? Tick one.

- ☐ Refreshment Sunday
☐ Simnel Sunday
☒ **Pudding Pie Sunday**
☐ Rose Sunday

2. Match the sub-heading to the statement about that section's content.



3. Name two countries which celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May.

Accept any two of the following: Brazil, Japan, United States.

4. Find and copy a word from the fourth paragraph which means the same as **changed**.
evolved

5. Find and copy a word or phrase from the text which shows that domestic servants were only allowed time off on Laetare Sunday.

Accept either of the following: the sole occasion, sole.

6. Explain why Mothering Sunday became a significant event within family life during the 16th century.

Accept any suitable explanation as to why Mothering Sunday became so significant, such as: Mothering Sunday became a significant event within family life during the 16th century because it was a rare occasion when domestic servants could leave their place of residence and visit their families to celebrate.

7. Explain what is meant by domestic service.

Accept any suitable explanation of domestic service, such as: Domestic service is where a person would work in a wealthy household and complete housework or physical tasks in order to receive an income.

8. Explain where the tradition of giving flowers to mothers on this day came from.
Accept any suitable explanation, such as: The origins of giving flowers dates back to children picking wild flowers from the side of the path while walking home from their place of work to see their families on Laetare Sunday.
9. Why might some countries have chosen to celebrate Mother's Day on 8th March?
Some countries have chosen to celebrate Mother's Day on 8th March (International Women's Day). This may have been chosen because mothers can be inspirational women and so it seems fitting to celebrate both simultaneously.
10. Do you think all countries should celebrate Mother's Day on the same date? Explain why.
Pupils' own responses, such as: No, I don't think all countries should celebrate Mother's Day on the same date because it would get rid of special country traditions from history which mean events are celebrated on certain days.