



Mother's Day *Father's Day*



History and Customs of Mother's Day...

In the U.S. Mothers' Day is a holiday celebrated on second Sunday in May. It is a day when children honor their mothers with cards, gifts, and flowers. First observance in Philadelphia, Pa. in 1907, it is based on suggestions by Julia Ward Howe in 1872 and Anna Jarvis in 1907.

Although it wasn't celebrated in the U.S. until 1908, there were days honoring mothers even in the days of ancient Greece. In those days, however, it was Rhea, the Mother of the gods that was given honor.

Later, in the 1600's, in England there was an annual observance called "Mothering Sunday." It was celebrated during Lent, on the fourth Sunday. On Mothering Sunday, the servants, who generally lived with their employers, were encouraged to return home and honor their mothers. It was traditional for them to bring a special cake along to celebrate the occasion.

In the U.S., in 1908 Ana Jarvis, from Grafton, West Virginia, began a campaign to establish a national Mother's Day. Jarvis persuaded her mother's church in Grafton, West Virginia to celebrate Mother's Day on the anniversary of her mother's death. A memorial service was held there on May 10, 1908 and in Philadelphia the following year where Jarvis moved.

Jarvis and others began a letter-writing campaign to ministers, businessmen, and politicians in their quest to establish a national Mother's Day. They were successful. President Woodrow Wilson, in 1914, made the official announcement proclaiming Mother's Day a national observance that was to be held each year on the 2nd Sunday of May.

Many other countries of the world celebrate their own Mother's Day at different times throughout the year. Denmark, Finland, Italy, Turkey, Australia, and Belgium celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday in May, as in the U.S.

What the Bible says about Mothers...

- Gen 3:20 Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.
- Deu 5:16 "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you.
- 2 Ki 4:30 But the child's mother said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So he got up and followed her.
- Isa 66:13 As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem."
- Luke 1:43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
- Luke 2:51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.
- John 19:26-27 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Mother's Day Trivia, Folk Customs, Myths and Fun Facts from Around the World

Some tribes of people, like the Assam in Africa, don't call themselves families. They call themselves "maharis", or "motherhoods."

Rosa Parks was the mother of bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama that launched the Civil Rights Movement.

Chinese family names are often formed (begin) with a sign that means "mother". It's a nice way of honoring their moms long past.

The ancient Greeks celebrated Mother's Day in spring, like we do. They used to honor Rhea, "mother of the gods" with honey-cakes and fine drinks and flowers at dawn. Sounds like the beginnings of the Mother's Day tradition of breakfast in bed!

Mother Shipton was a Prophetess in Britain 500 years ago. She could see the future, and predicted that another Queen Elizabeth would sit on the throne of England. (QE II)

Japan's Imperial family trace their descent from Omikami Amaterasu, the Mother of the World.

Julia Ward Howe wrote the Battle Hymn of the Republic and was a staunch fighter for women's rights. She staged an unusual protest for peace in Boston, by celebrating a special day for mothers. Julia wanted to call attention to the need for peace by pointing out mothers who were left alone in the world without their sons and husbands after the bloody Franco-Prussian War.

Hindu scripture credits the Great Mother, Kali Ma, with the invention of writing through alphabets, pictographs and beautiful sacred images.

George Washington once said, "My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her."

The Greek word "meter" and the Sanskrit word "mantra" mean both mother and measurement.

Mother Goose is one of the most popular of all children's entertainers. Her books and stories have been loved for many generations.

Native American Indian women have long been honored with the name, "Life of the Nation" for their gift of motherhood to the tribes.

Rose Kennedy once said, "I looked on child-rearing not only as a work of love and duty, but as a profession that was fully as interesting and challenging as any honorable profession in the world, and one that demanded the best that I could bring it."

Buddha honored mothers when he said, "As a mother, even at the risk of her own life, loves and protects her child, so let a man cultivate love without measure toward the whole world."

Mother's Day is now celebrated in many countries around the world. Australia, Mexico, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Turkey, Belgium, Russia, China, Thailand, all have special celebrations to honor Mothers, but not in the same way or on the same day as the United States.

In the Bible, Eve is credited with being the "Mother of All the Living."

During the 1600's, England celebrated a day called "Mothering Sunday." Servants would go home to see their families, bringing cakes and sweets to their moms. This custom was called "going a-mothering". Each mother would receive a simnel-cake (Latin for "fine flour") and mother's would give a blessing to their children.

Mother Earth is also known as "Terra Firma". That title is a Latin translation of some lines from one of the Greek poet, Homer's, greatest poems.

FATHERS' DAY HISTORY

Sonora Dodd, of Washington, first had the idea of a “father’s day.” She thought of the idea for Father’s Day while listening to a Mother’s Day sermon in 1909.

Sonora wanted a special day to honor her father, William Smart. Smart, who was a Civil War veteran, was widowed when his wife died while giving birth to their sixth child. Mr. Smart was left to raise the newborn and his other five children by himself on a rural farm in eastern Washington state.

After Sonora became an adult she realized the selflessness her father had shown in raising his children as a single parent. It was her father that made all the parental sacrifices and was, in the eyes of his daughter, a courageous, selfless, and loving man. Sonora’s father was born in June, so she chose to hold the first Father’s Day celebration in Spokane, Washington on the 19th of June, 1910.

President Calvin Coolidge, in 1924, supported the idea of a national Father’s Day. Then in 1966 President Lyndon Johnson signed a presidential proclamation declaring the 3rd Sunday of June as Father’s Day.

QUOTES ABOUT DAD

“None of you can ever be proud enough of being the child of SUCH a Father who has not his equal in this world—so great, so good, so faultless. Try, all of you, to follow in his footsteps and don’t be discouraged, for to be really in everything like him none of you, I am sure, will ever be. Try, therefore, to be like him in some points, and you will have acquired a great deal.” — *Victoria, Queen of England*

“That is the thankless position of the father in the family—the provider for all, and the enemy of all.” — *J. August Strindberg*

“It is a wise father that knows his own child.” — *William Shakespeare*

“It doesn’t matter who my father was; it matters who I remember he was.” — *Anne Sexton*

“To be a successful father . . . there’s one absolute rule: when you have a kid, don’t look at it for the first two years.” — *Ernest Hemingway*

“A man knows when he is growing old because he begins to look like his father.” — *Gabriel García Márquez*

“I cannot think of any need in childhood as strong as the need for a father’s protection.” — *Sigmund Freud*

“I watched a small man with thick calluses on both hands work fifteen and sixteen hours a day. I saw him once literally bleed from the bottoms of his feet, a man who came here uneducated, alone, unable to speak the language, who taught me all I needed to know about faith and hard work by the simple eloquence of his example.” — *Mario Cuomo*

“Be kind to thy father, for when thou wert young,
Who loved thee so fondly as he?
He caught the first accents that fell from thy tongue,
And joined in thy innocent glee.”
— *Margaret Courtney*

“If the new American father feels bewildered and even defeated, let him take comfort from the fact that whatever he does in any fathering situation has a fifty percent chance of being right.” — *Bill Cosby*

“Blessed indeed is the man who hears many gentle voices call him father!” — *Lydia M. Child*

MORE IDEAS TO TRY...

Special Friend:

Have your kids pick someone outside your family who is unlikely to have anyone to celebrate the day with. Invite him or her out for dinner, or fix a special meal for the person. Your kids can design cards and help decorate a cake for your guest.

Sticky Situation:

Help your kids decorate one side of several wooden cutouts (various shapes such as hearts, hands, footballs). Have kids write “Happy Mother’s Day” or “Happy Father’s Day” on each cutout. Attach a round magnet to the back of each cutout with hot glue. Go with your kids to deliver a magnet to mothers and fathers in your neighborhood.

Care Package:

Make a care package for an elderly mother or father in your community or family. Have kids list things the person might need and why.

Give your kids an amount they can spend on the person, then have them decide which items on the list are most important and why. Take your kids shopping for those items.

Decorate a “care” basket for the items. Include home-baked goodies (beware of dietary concerns) and messages from your family. Finally include “The Prayer for Protection.”

Call ahead and deliver the care basket on a day when you can spend a few minutes letting your children get acquainted with the person.

A Thousand Words

Send e-mail greetings. Help your kids write a “top 10” list of their favorite things about a grandparent, aunt or uncle, or other friend who’s a mother or father. Have your kids write their greetings in the email and then send it.



Poetry for Mom or Dad

This project just takes some imagination and a little bit of time. You will be giving your mother/father something that they can treasure.

This project is rated EASY to do.

What You Need

- ◆ Pencil
- ◆ Paper
- ◆ Your imagination

How To Make It

You could write your mother/father an original poem for Mother's Day/Father's Day! There are many different kinds of poetry. Two kinds that are easy and that most kids like to write are Haiku and limericks.

A Haiku is a form of poetry adapted from a type of traditional Japanese poetry. The traditional form of the Haiku had three basic rules.

The first rule is that the first and third lines have five syllables (parts of words that "make your chin drop" when you say them) and the second line has seven syllables.

The second rule is that the poem should in some way tell about the season in which the poem takes place. It doesn't have to come out and say the season; it can just hint at it.

The third rule is that either the first or second line should have a "pause" placed there to cause the reader to stop and think for a moment about the subject.

Here are two different ideas, one about summer and one about a mother. Try writing one for your mom!

A day for mother
to let her know how I feel -
she helps me to grow.

Sticky, sandy, hot
the water thunders and flows
over my big feet.

Limericks are always a favorite with kids because they are supposed to be funny!

There are five lines. The first, second, and fifth line rhyme with each other and the third and fourth lines rhyme with each other. Most begin with "There once was a . . ." Try one of these to make your mom laugh!

There once was a wonderful mother,
She gave me a sister and brother.
Though sometimes we fight
It ends up all right
'Cause she is a mom like no other.

There once were a mom and a dad,
They loved me even when I was bad.
If sometimes I did wrong,
They weren't mad for long
They're the best parents I ever had.

Say it with Signs

These are made from yard sign (sticks) that lawn care people place in yards to show the lawn has been treated. Create and then place these signs along the recipient's driveway or along their lawn that they can read as they drive up to their house. Great for parties too! Parental supervision is recommended.

This project is rated VERY EASY to do.

What You Need

- ◆ Lawn care signs/sticks
- ◆ Poster board
- ◆ Hole punch
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Pencil or pen
- ◆ Markers (use permanent markers if rain is possible)
- ◆ Other decorative items such as ribbons, feathers, beads, etc.
- ◆ Tacky glue or double stick tape

How To Make It

1. Remove the signs off the sticks.
2. Trace around the sign onto the poster board. Be sure to also trace the hole. Repeat for as many signs as you wish to make.
3. Cut out the signs.
4. Hole punch on the marked area.
5. Decorate the signs with markers or other decorative items.
6. Let dry.
7. Use tape or tacky glue to adhere the poster board to the lawn care signs for extra durability.
8. Let dry if using glue.
9. Assemble the signs.
10. Arrange the signs down a driveway or yard so they can be read as people, or the recipient, drives by!

Tips

We went around and asked people if we could have their lawn care signs. No one turned us down and now we have quite a few! We made these signs for my niece's birthday. My son used Crayola's Changeables Markers to create the look you see in the pictures.

You can also tie on helium filled balloons to the signs to gather more attention to your signs. Have fun coming up with new ideas in ways to use these signs. Don't forget Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays, anniversaries, or just any day to make someone smile! 8-D