

# Mother's Day

## What Is Mother's Day?

Mother's Day is a special day for people to say thank you to their mothers and mother figures. Mother figures may include grandmas, aunts, sisters, carers or guardians. Mother's Day is a chance for people to show that they are grateful for what these special people do to help them.



## What Is Mothering Sunday?

Mother's Day, as we know it, is based on the religious festival known as 'Mothering Sunday'.

A long time ago, children would leave home at around ten years old so that they could start making money for their family. Lots of children worked as servants in big houses. The servants lived in the same place that they worked and could not go home very often.

Every year, the servants were allowed to go home on the fourth Sunday of Lent. On this special day, servants could spend time with their family and go to church together.

As they walked home, the servants would pick flowers from the side of the path and give them to their mothers. This became known as Mothering Sunday.



## How Did Mother's Day Begin?

Around 100 years ago, people who owned shops began to realise how popular Mothering Sunday was and they saw a chance to make some money. They began to sell cards and gifts at this time of year and advertised the day as 'Mother's Day'.

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 and many people think that they are the same thing.



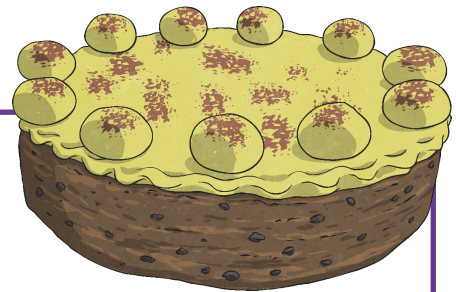
### Other Names for Mother's Day

The fourth Sunday in Lent also has many other names. Some of them are:

- Refreshment Sunday;
- Mid-Lent Sunday;
- Rose Sunday;
- Pudding Pie Sunday (in the county of Surrey);
- Simnel Sunday.

### Did You Know...?

- Simnel cake is a traditional Mother's Day cake. It is a fruit cake decorated with 11 balls of marzipan (a sweet yellow or white paste).
- Mother's Day is celebrated on different dates in different countries around the world.



# Questions

1. Which of these people might you say thank you to on Mother's Day? Tick one.

- ☐ dad
- ☐ uncle
- ☐ grandma
- ☐ brother

2. Why did children leave home at around 10 years old in the past? Tick one.

- ☐ so that they could buy a house
- ☐ so that they could make money for their family
- ☐ so that they could go on holiday
- ☐ so that they could go and live with a friend

3. On which Sunday in Lent was Mothering Sunday celebrated? Tick one.

- ☐ first
- ☐ second
- ☐ third
- ☐ fourth

4. Who wanted to make money from the popularity of Mothering Sunday? Tick one.

- ☐ servants
- ☐ churches
- ☐ shop owners
- ☐ royalty

5. Fill in the missing words in this sentence:

As they walked home, servants would pick \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Find and copy another name for the fourth Sunday in Lent.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Why do people get Mother's Day and Mothering Sunday mixed up?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Answers

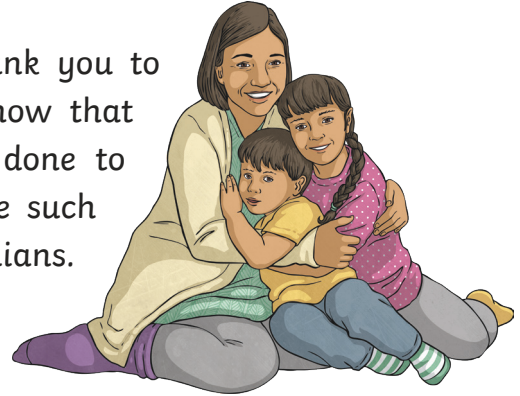
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5. Fill in the missing words in this sentence:  
As they walked home, servants would pick **flowers from the side of the path and give them to their mothers.**
6. Find and copy another name for the fourth Sunday in Lent.  
**Accept any one of the following: Mothering Sunday; Mother's Day; Refreshment Sunday; Mid-Lent Sunday; Rose Sunday; Pudding Pie Sunday; Simnel Sunday.**
7. Why do people get Mother's Day and Mothering Sunday mixed up?  
**Mother's Day and Mothering Sunday are often mixed up as they are celebrated on the same day.**



# Mother's Day

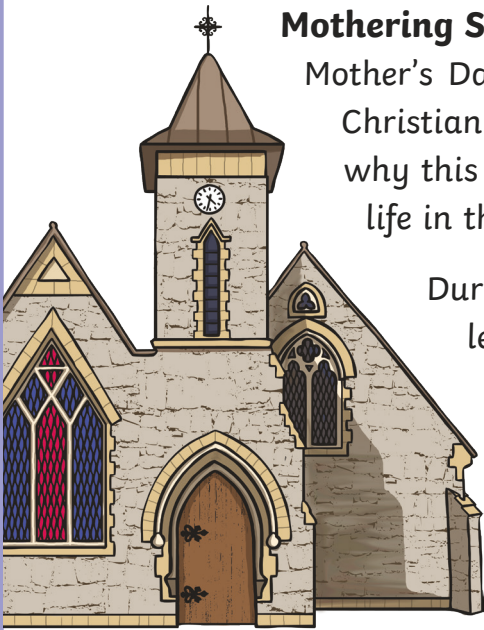
## What Is Mother's Day?

Mother's Day is a day for people to say thank you to their mothers and mother figures, and to show that they are grateful for everything they have done to help them. Mother figures can include people such as grandmas, aunts, sisters, carers or guardians.



## Mothering Sunday

Mother's Day, as we know it, is said to be based on the early Christian festival known as 'Mothering Sunday'. To understand why this was such an important day, we must look at family life in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.



During the 16<sup>th</sup> century, it was common for children to leave home around the age of ten years old. This was so that they could begin to earn a small amount of money to send home to their families. Many children worked as domestic servants. For girls, this meant becoming maids in big houses and for boys, this meant looking after horses in the stables. Domestic servants

lived in the same place that they worked and were not allowed to go home very often.

One day that domestic servants were allowed to go home was on the fourth Sunday of the season of Lent. 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 might have been the main church in their town or the church they had been baptised in. As they walked home, children would pick the wild flowers from the side of the path and give them to their mothers as a small gift.



## Mothering Sunday or Mother's Day?

As the years went by, this tradition continued and changed into what was known as Mothering Sunday. In the early 1900s, shopkeepers around the country had begun to realise how popular Mothering Sunday had become. They saw a chance to make some money. They began to sell cards and gifts at this time of year and advertised the day as 'Mother's Day'.

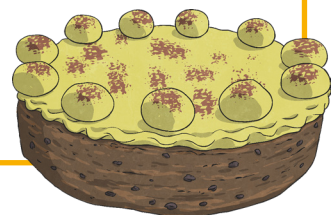


Over time, the wild flowers picked by children were replaced by shop-bought gifts and cards, and the fourth Sunday in the season of Lent continued to be a special day for families to spend time together. People in the UK and Ireland started to celebrate 'Mother's Day' on the same day that Mothering Sunday had been celebrated. The two celebrations have now been mixed up and many people think that they are the same thing.

## Many Names for Mother's Day

Just as it is often known as both Mothering Sunday and Mother's Day, the fourth Sunday in the season of Lent also has many other names. Some of these names include:

- Refreshment Sunday;
- Mid-Lent Sunday;
- Rose Sunday;
- Pudding Pie Sunday (in the county of Surrey);
- Simnel Sunday.



# Questions

1. What is the name of the early Christian festival that Mother's Day is said to be based on? Tick one.

- ☐ Lent
- ☐ Mothering Sunday
- ☐ Easter Sunday
- ☐ Epiphany

2. Draw a line to match the person to the fact about them.

Domestic servants

recognised how popular  
Mothering Sunday had become

Mothers

were rarely allowed to go home.

Shopkeepers

are celebrated and thanked  
on Mother's Day.

3. Which role would female domestic servants take? Tick one.

- ☐ looking after horses
- ☐ washing cars
- ☐ being a maid
- ☐ reading and writing

4. Which of these is another name for the fourth Sunday in Lent? Tick one.

- ☐ Rose Sunday
- ☐ Floral Sunday
- ☐ Flowering Sunday
- ☐ Blossom Sunday

5. What role would male domestic servants take?

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6. In which part of the country might people call the fourth Sunday of Lent 'Pudding Pie Sunday'?

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# Questions

7. Why might someone think that Mothering Sunday and Mother's Day are the same event?

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8. Why did children choose to pick wild flowers rather than buy them from the shop?

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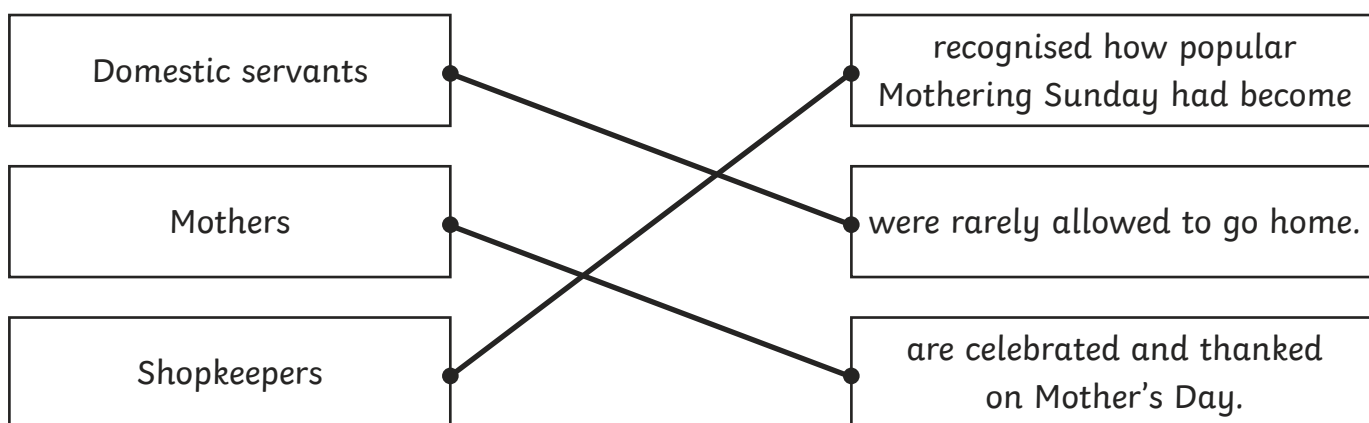


# Answers

1. What is the name of the early Christian festival that Mother's Day is said to be based on? Tick one.

- ☐ Lent  
☒ Mothering Sunday  
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- ☐ looking after horses  
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4. Which of these is another name for the fourth Sunday in Lent? Tick one.

- ☒ Rose Sunday  
☐ Floral Sunday  
☐ Flowering Sunday  
☐ Blossom Sunday

5. What role would male domestic servants take?

**Male domestic servants would look after the horses in the stables.**

6. In which part of the country might people call the fourth Sunday of Lent 'Pudding Pie Sunday'?

**In Surrey people might call the fourth Sunday of Lent 'Pudding Pie Sunday'.**

# Answers

7. Why might someone think that Mothering Sunday and Mother's Day are the same event?

**Someone might think that Mother's Day and Mothering Sunday are the same event as they both have similar names, are celebrated on the same day and both involve giving a gift to a mother or mother figure.**

8. Why did children choose to pick wild flowers rather than buy them from the shop?

**Children chose to pick wild flowers rather than buy them from the shop because they would not have had enough money to buy flowers.**

# Mother's Day

## What Is 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

Mother's Day as it is now celebrated is said to be based on the early Christian festival known as 'Mothering Sunday'.

To understand the importance of this day, we must look at family life in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.



During the 1500s, it was normal for children to leave home around the age of ten years old. This was so that they could begin to earn a small income to send to their families. Many children began to work as domestic servants. For girls, this meant becoming maids in big houses, whereas work for boys involved looking after horses in the stables. Domestic servants lived in the same place that they worked and were not allowed to go home very often.

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 might have been 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

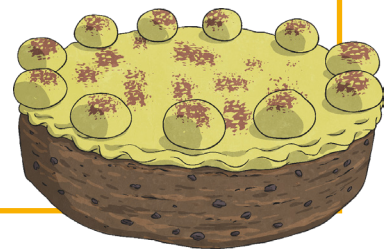
As the years went by, this tradition continued and changed into what was known as Mothering Sunday. In the early 1900s, UK shopkeepers had begun to realise how popular Mothering Sunday had become and saw a chance to make a profit. They began to sell cards and gifts specifically for this purpose and advertised the day as 'Mother's Day'.

Over time, the wild flowers picked by children were replaced by shop-bought gifts and cards 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 merged, with many people thinking that they are the same thing.

### Many Names for Mother's Day

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 special day. Some of these names include:

- Refreshment Sunday;
- Mid-Lent Sunday;
- Rose Sunday;
- Pudding Pie Sunday (in the county of Surrey);
- Simnel Sunday.



### Glossary

**Annual** – Something which happens once every year.

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

# Questions

1. 'Mother's Day is an annual celebration.' What does the word **annual** mean? Tick one.

- ☐ something which is unexpected
- ☐ something which is unpleasant
- ☐ something which happens quickly
- ☐ something which happens every year

2. Match each question to the correct answer.

In the 1500s, what was the day called on which the servants were allowed to visit home?

What is the fourth Sunday of the season of Lent known as by people in Surrey?

Which tradition was created by shopkeepers as a way to make money?

Mother's Day

Pudding Pie Sunday

Laetare Sunday

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is a cathedral?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Find and copy a word from the fourth paragraph which tells you that it was uncommon for domestic servants to leave work.

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Why do you think Mother's Day and Mothering Sunday are celebrated on the same day?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Explain who you would thank on Mother's Day and why you would thank them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

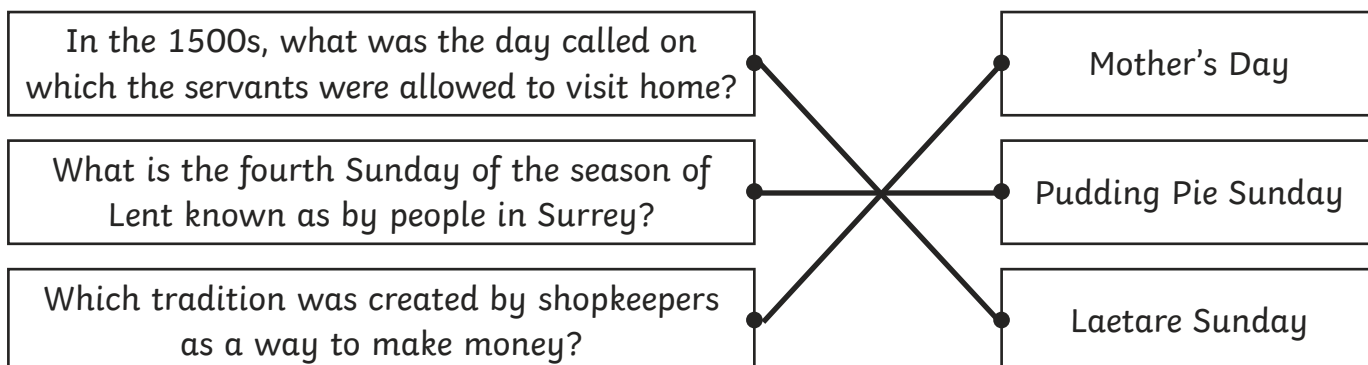


# Answers

1. 'Mother's Day is an annual celebration.' What does the word **annual** mean? Tick one

- ☐ something which is unexpected
- ☐ something which is unpleasant
- ☐ something which happens quickly
- ☒ something which happens every year

2. Match each question to the correct answer.



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

**Accept any two of the following: An example of a mother church could be the main church in someone's town; An example of a mother church could be the church they had been baptised in; An example of a mother church could be the local cathedral.**

4. What is a cathedral?

**A cathedral is a very large church which the bishop is linked to.**

5. Find and copy a word from the fourth paragraph which tells you that it was uncommon for domestic servants to leave work.

**rare**

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

**Any reasonable answer, such as: I think wild flowers were replaced by shop-bought flowers because they were more impressive; I think wild flowers were replaced by shop-bought flowers because people started to earn enough money to buy presents instead.**

7. Why do you think Mother's Day and Mothering Sunday are celebrated on the same day?

**Any reasonable answer, such as: I think Mother's Day and Mothering Sunday are celebrated on the same day because they are very similar events; I think Mother's Day and Mothering Sunday are celebrated on the same day because shopkeepers who invented Mother's Day took advantage of a tradition that already existed and put it on the same date.**

8. Explain who you would thank on Mother's Day and why you would thank them.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I would thank my grandmother because she does a lot to help me and is always there for me.**