

Mother's Day: History, Traditions, and Facts

Social Studies · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. What was the original intention behind Mother's Day as introduced by Julia Ward Howe?

- A) To celebrate mothers' contributions to society
- B) To promote peace and rally against war**
- C) To honor deceased mothers
- D) To encourage commercial gift-giving

2. Who is credited with spearheading the effort to make Mother's Day a national holiday in the United States?

- A) Julia Ward Howe
- B) Janet Heyden
- C) Anna Jarvis**
- D) The Virgin Mary

3. Why did Anna Jarvis, the founder of Mother's Day, try to abolish the holiday?

- A) She felt it was not being celebrated widely enough
- B) She disagreed with the date it was celebrated
- C) She protested against its commercialization**
- D) She wanted to replace it with a new holiday

4. In what year did the first Australian Mother's Day tradition begin?

- A) 1907
- B) 1914
- C) 1924**
- D) 1934

5. According to linguists, what is the likely origin of the word 'mum'?

- A) An ancient Roman term
- B) A French word for mother
- C) The sound babies make ('ma, ma')**
- D) A derivative of the word 'mother'

6. What scientific benefits does a mother's voice have on her child?

- A) It increases stress hormones
- B) It has calming effects and reduces cortisol**
- C) It has no significant proven benefits
- D) It stimulates aggressive behavior

7. What is a unique Mother's Day tradition in Thailand?

- A) Mothers receive gifts from their children at home
- B) Children bow at their mothers' feet at school events**
- C) Families have a large feast together
- D) Mothers are honored with parades

8. In the 1920s, France awarded medals to mothers of what kind of families?

- A) The most talented families
- B) The largest families**
- C) The most artistic families
- D) The most charitable families

9. Which ancient civilization dedicated a spring festival to Rhea, the mother of the gods?

- A) Ancient Rome
- B) Ancient Egypt
- C) Ancient Greece**
- D) Ancient Mesopotamia

10. What is the religious origin of Mother's Day in the United Kingdom?

- A) To celebrate saints associated with mothers
- B) To encourage visits to the 'mother' church for a special service**
- C) To commemorate a biblical mother figure
- D) To honor the Virgin Mary

11. Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of May in most countries. In the United Kingdom, it is celebrated on which day?

- A) The first Sunday of May
- B) The third Sunday of May
- C) The fourth Sunday of Lent**
- D) The last Sunday of March

12. According to a 2023 study, what do many mums truly desire for Mother's Day?

- A) Expensive gifts
- B) Spa treatments
- C) Quality time with loved ones**
- D) A day off from all responsibilities

13. Mother's Day is the third largest card-sending holiday. Approximately how many cards are exchanged annually?

- A) 50 million
- B) 75 million
- C) 113 million**
- D) 150 million

14. What artwork inspired the design of the 1934 Mother's Day stamp in America?

- A) Mona Lisa
- B) The Starry Night
- C) Portrait of My Mother (An Arrangement in Gray and Black)**
- D) Girl with a Pearl Earring

15. What is the top gift of choice for Mother's Day in Australia, according to a 2024 survey?

- A) Food/alcohol
- B) Vacations or dinners
- C) Jewelry
- D) Flowers**

16. What flower is traditionally associated with Mother's Day and symbolizes love and gratitude?

- A) Roses
- B) Tulips
- C) Carnations**
- D) Lilies

17. What do white carnations often symbolize on Mother's Day?

- A) New beginnings
- B) Joy and happiness
- C) Honoring mums who have passed away**
- D) Friendship

18. In Christianity, what do pink carnations represent in relation to mothers?

- A) A mother's strength
- B) A mother's joy
- C) A mother's unconditional love and devotion**
- D) A mother's wisdom

19. Mother's Day is a day to honor which of the following?

- A) Only biological mothers
- B) Grandmothers only
- C) All motherly figures, including stepmums and aunts**
- D) Fathers who also act as mothers

20. The text mentions that Mother's Day falls on May 12th this year. This refers to which year?

- A) 2023
- B) 2024**
- C) 2025
- D) The year the article was written