

Read the following comprehension and answer the questions. Remember to support your answers with the text.

Mother's Day

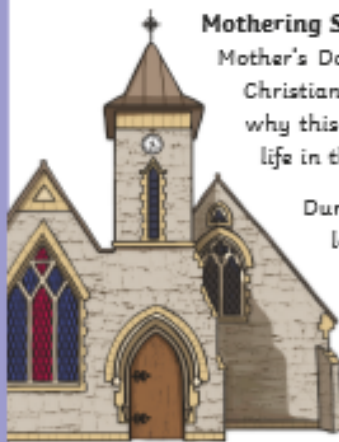
What Is Mother's Day?

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 16th century.



During the 16th 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?

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

Mother's Day

Questions

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

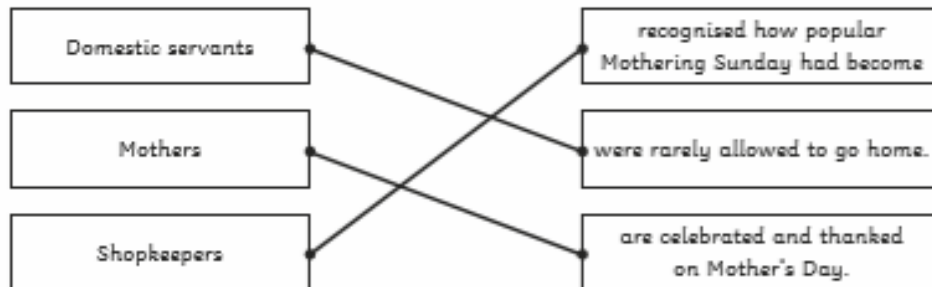
8. Why did children choose to pick wild flowers rather than buy them from the shop?

Answers

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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'.

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.