Mother's Day and Father's Day

Worksheet

Exercise 1: True or False

Work in pairs. Decide whether the statements about Mother's Day and Father's Day are true or false. Compare and discuss your answers, then read the texts on the next page to check your answers.

1. Father's Day was invented by a woman.
2. Both celebrations fall in the same month.
3. Father's day is an official public holiday around the world.
4. Mother's Day is celebrated in the same month in the UK and the US.
5. Father's Day is always on a Thursday in Germany.
6. In China, Father's Day is celebrated in August.
7. Mother's day is an official public holiday in Thailand.
8. Both celebrations come from the United States.

Exercise 2: Language

Find the underlined words in the Mother's Day and Father's Day texts and match them with their meanings below. The words are not in chronological order.



Mother's day:

1. made something that did not exist before _____
2. done by people in authority _____
3. very old, relating to people who lived thousands of years ago _____
4. to show your love, respect or admiration for someone _____
5. someone who raises a child but is not a biological parent _____



Father's Day:

6. a long walk in the countryside _____
7. took care of children while they were growing up _____
8. a large hole or tunnel in the ground from which people take coal, gold, etc _____
9. a religious ceremony in a church _____
10. a day when shops, banks, businesses and schools are closed _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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Mother's Day

Mother's Day is a time to honour mothers and mother figures, such as stepmothers, foster mothers, grandmothers or mothers-in-law. On this day many people visit their mother and give her a card and a gift, or they take their mother out for a meal in a restaurant.

Mother's Day is held on the second Sunday of May in many countries in Europe as well as in Australia, Canada and the United States. In the United Kingdom it is on the Sunday three weeks before Easter.

Celebrations of mothers go back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, who held festivals in honour of the mother goddesses Rhea and Cybele, but the more recent history of Mother's Day goes back to the 1600s in England. There, Mothering Sunday was celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent (the 40 days before Easter). After a church service to honour Jesus' mother Mary, children gave flowers to their own mothers. These days, in the UK, Mothering Sunday has become less of a religious holiday and more similar to the American Mother's Day celebration.

In the United States, Mother's Day was created by Anna Jarvis in 1908 and became an official US holiday in 1914. However, Mother's Day is not a public holiday. Businesses and stores open or close, just as they do on any other Sunday in the year, but restaurants are busier than usual.

Mother's Day is an official public holiday in some countries such as Costa Rica (August 15), Georgia (March 3), Samoa (second Monday of May), and Thailand (August 12).



Father's Day

Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday in June in the UK and in many other countries around the world. The idea to have a special day for fathers started in the USA and in 1972 President Richard Nixon made it a US national holiday. Although Father's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world, it is not usually an official public holiday.

There are two stories about the beginning of Father's Day. One says that Sonora Dodd, from Washington, came up with the idea in 1910 after attending a Mother's Day service in church. Dodd and her brothers and sister were raised by their single father after their mother died, and she asked why fathers did not have their own day too. The other story says that Grace Golden Clayton, from Fairmont, West Virginia, invented Father's Day in 1908. After a mine explosion killed more than 360 men in a nearby town she suggested that children in the town needed a special day to remember their fathers.

In Germany Vatertag (Father's Day) is celebrated on Ascension Day (a religious public holiday) which is always on a Thursday in April, May or June. The day is also called Männertag (or Men's Day) and it is traditional for groups of men to go for a hike, taking beer and meat for a barbecue.

In China, Father's Day used to be celebrated on 8 August. The Chinese word for eight is 'ba', and one word for father is 'ba-ba' – so the eighth day of the eighth month sounds similar to 'daddy'. These days, the celebration has moved to the third Sunday of June; the same day as the UK and US.

LIVEWORKSHEETS