

Mother's Day

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Mother's Day is a holiday honouring mothers, celebrated (on various days) in many places around the world. Mothers often receive gifts on this day.

Mother's Day is a strange time of year for mail in many countries. In 1973, mail delivery through the U.S. Postal Service was delayed for eight

days because of the amount of mail. Telephone networks are also at their busiest on Mother's Day. Mother's Day is the number one holiday for flowers purchased throughout the year.



A celebratory cake.

Mother's Day

Observed by	Most countries
Type	Historical
Date	Varies regionally
Related to	Father's Day

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History

Different countries celebrate Mother's Day on various days of the year because the day has a number of different origins. One school of thought claims this day emerged from a custom of mother worship in ancient Greece. Mother worship — which kept a festival to Cybele, a great mother of gods, and Rhea, the wife of Cronus — was held around

the Vernal Equinox around Asia Minor and eventually in Rome itself from the Ides of March (March 15) to March 18.

In the United States, Mother's Day was originally conceived by social activist Julia Ward Howe during the American Civil War with a call to unite women against war. She wrote the Mother's Day Proclamation. In the British Islands, the day now simply celebrates motherhood and thanking mothers. According to the National Restaurant Association, Mother's Day is now the most popular day of the year to dine out at a restaurant in the United States.^[1]

In most countries, Mother's Day is a new concept copied from western civilization. In many African countries, Mother's Day has its origins in copying the British concept. In most of East Asia, Mother's Day is a heavily marketed and commercialized concept copied straight from Mother's Day in the USA.

US origin

Julia Ward Howe wrote the Mother's Day Proclamation in 1870, as a call for peace and disarmament. An excerpt follows:

*From the voice of a devastated Earth a voice goes up with
Our own. It says: "Disarm! Disarm!
The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."
Blood does not wipe our dishonor,
Nor violence indicate possession.
As men have often forsaken the plough and the anvil at the summons of war,
Let women now leave all that may be left of home
For a great and earnest day of counsel.
Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.
Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means
Whereby the great human family can live in peace...*

Howe failed in her attempt to get formal recognition of a Mother's Day for Peace. Her idea was influenced by Anna Jarvis, a young Appalachian homemaker who, starting in 1858, had attempted to improve sanitation through what she called Mothers' Work Days. She organized women throughout the Civil War to work for better sanitary conditions for both sides, and in 1868 she began work to reconcile Union and Confederate neighbors.

When Jarvis died, her daughter, also named Anna Jarvis, started the crusade to found a memorial day for women. The first such Mother's Day was celebrated in Grafton, West Virginia, on May 10, 1908, in the church where the elder Anna Jarvis had taught Sunday School. Grafton is the home to the International Mother's Day Shrine (<http://www.mothersdayshrine.com>) . From there, the custom caught on — spreading eventually to 45 states. The holiday was declared officially by some states beginning in 1912. In 1914 President Woodrow Wilson declared the first national Mother's Day. Nine years after the first official Mother's Day holiday, commercialization of the U.S. holiday became so rampant that Anna Jarvis herself became a major opponent of what the holiday had become. Mother's Day continues to this day to be one of the most commercially successful U.S. holidays.

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday, commonly called "Mother's Day" in the United Kingdom, has no direct connection to the American practice. It falls on the fourth Sunday of Lent (typically March or early April). It is believed to have originated from the Christian practice of visiting one's mother church annually, this meant that most families would be reunited on this day. Most historians believe that young apprentices and young women in servitude were released

by their masters that weekend in order to visit their families.^[2]

Mother's Days in various parts of the world

Mothers' Day is celebrated on different days throughout the world. Examining the trends in Google searches for the term "mothers day" shows two major blips, the smaller one on the fourth Sunday in Lent, and the larger one on the second Sunday in May.^[3]

second Sunday in February	Norway
Shevat 30 (falls anywhere between January 30 and March 1)	Israel
March 3	Georgia
March 8	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Macedonia, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Vietnam . The date coincides with the International Women's Day.
fourth Sunday in Lent (Mothering Sunday)	Ireland, United Kingdom
March 21 (first day of spring)	Bahrain, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Palestinian Territories, Jordan, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Yemen
April 7	Armenia
first Sunday in May	Hungary, Lithuania, Portugal, Spain
May 8	South Korea, Albania (Parents' Day)
May 10	much of South America, El Salvador, India, Mexico, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Singapore
second Sunday in May <i>see: Mother's Day (United States)</i>	Anguilla, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bermuda, Bonaire, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Croatia, Curacao, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Honduras, Hong Kong, Iceland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Malta, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Suriname, Switzerland, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zimbabwe
May 26	Poland
May 27	Bolivia
last Sunday in May	France (except if it coincides with Pentecost day, in which case Mother's Day will be shifted to the first Sunday of June), Dominican Republic, Haiti, Sweden
May 30	Nicaragua
August 12	Thailand (the birthday of Queen Sirikit Kitiyakara)
August 15 (Assumption Day)	Antwerp (Belgium), Costa Rica
second or third Sunday in October	Argentina (<i>Día de la Madre</i>)

last Sunday in November	Russia
December 8	Panama
December 22	Indonesia
20th Jumada al-thani (also called <i>Women's Day</i>)	Iran and other Muslim peoples, especially Shias. The date is the (disputed) birthday of Fatima Zahra. The Islamic calendar is lunar so it cycles relative to the Western calendar.

Mother's Day in various languages

- **(ar)** : يوم الأم (Yaum ul-Umm)
- **(ber)** : *tameɣra n tyemmat*
- **(ch)** : 母亲节 or 母親節 (mǔ qīn jié)
- **(hr)** : *Majčín dan*
- **(cz)** : *Den Matek*
- **(da)** : *Mors dag*
- **(nl)** : *Moederdag*
- **(de)** : *(Der) Muttertag*
- **(el)** : *Γιορτή της Μητέρας*
- **(et)** : *Emadepäev*
- **(fa)** : روز مادر (Ruz-e Madar)
- **(fi)** : *Äitiinpäivä*
- **(fr)** : *(La) Fête des mères*
- **(he)** : *(he) יום האם (Yom ha-em)*
- **(hu)** : *(Az) Anyák napja*
- **(is)** : *Mæðradagur*
- **(it)** : *(La) Festa della mamma*
- **(ja)** : 母の日 (*Haha no Hi*)
- **(lt)** : *Motinos diena*
- **(bm)** : *Hari Ibu*
- **(no)** : *Morsdag*
- **(per)** : روز مادر (Rouz-e Maadar)
- **(pl)** : *Dzień Matki*
- **(pt)** : *(O) Dia da Mãe*
- **(ro)** : *Ziua mamei*
- **(ru)** : *День Матери*
- **(es)** : *Día de la Madre*
- **(sk)** : *Deň matiek*
- **(sl)** : *Materinski dan*
- **(sv)** : *Mors dag*
- **(sh)** : *Liepstacoq Bua*
- **(ta)** : *Araw ng mga Ina/Nanay*
- **(th)** : วันแม่
- **(tr)** : *Anneler günü*

See also

- Father's Day

- Mothering Sunday
- May crowning
- International Women's Day
- Hallmark Holiday
- Mother's Day (Futurama)

References

1. ^ Patricia Talorico. "Honor thy reservation", *The News Journal*, April 26, 2006, pp. E1, E6.
2. ^ "Mothering Sunday (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/features/mday/index.shtml>) ", *Religion & Ethics*, *bbc.co.uk*. Retrieved on 2006-05-28.
3. ^ mothers day (<http://www.google.com/trends?q=mothers+day&ctab=0&date=all&geo=all>) . *Google Trends*. Google. Retrieved on May 28, [[2006]].

External links

- History of Mother's Day (<http://blackdog4kids.com/holiday/mom/history.html>)
- Mothers Day Presentation (<http://www.funonthenet.in/content/view/286/31/>) Beautiful Flash Presentation on Mothers Day
- Mother's Day History (<http://www.dayformothers.com/mothers-day-history/index.html>)
- Mother's Day History (<http://womenshistory.about.com/od/mothersday/a/early.htm>)
- Mother's Day and its history and origin (<http://www.theholidayspot.com/mothersday/history.htm>)
- Mother's Day on the net (<http://www.holidays.net/mother/>)
- Mothers' Day at Web-Holidays (<http://www.web-holidays.com/mothersday/>)
- Origin of Mother's Day (<http://www.chennaionline.com/specials/summer2002/mothersday/origin.asp>)
- Mother's Day on emotioncards.com (<http://www.emotioncards.com/trivia/mothersday/mothersday.html>)
- International Mother's Day Shrine (<http://www.mothersdayshrine.com>)
- Mother's Day Origin (<http://mothersday.indiaserver.com/mothers-day-origin.html>)
- Category at ODP (http://dmoz.org/Society/Holidays/Mother%27s_Day/)
- Mother's Day Celebrations (<http://www.mothersdaycelebration.com/>) — Comprehensive site with details on celebrations, traditions & history besides other aspects related to the festival.
- Vintage Mother's Day Postcards (<http://brazilpostcard.com/motherpg.html>)
- How Mothering Sunday was revived in East Anglia (<http://ely.anglican.org/about/MotheringSunday.html>)

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