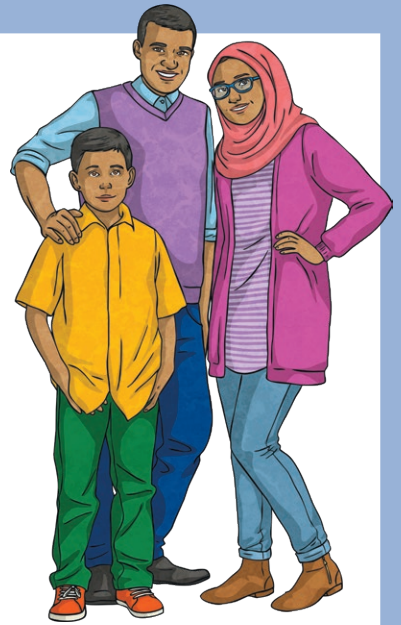


Father's Day



How Did Father's Day Begin?

On 5th July 1908, a church in West Virginia, USA held the first event in honour of fathers. It was a Sunday sermon in memory of 362 men who had died the previous December in an explosion at the Fairmount Coal Company mines. Many of the men who died were fathers and grandfathers.

A year later, a young woman called Sonora Smart Dodd decided to try to establish an official day to honour all fathers. Sonora's mother died when Sonora was just 16 years old. She was one of six children who were raised by their father who was an ex-soldier.

She went to churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and the government to try to get support to start a national day for fathers. She was successful! The 19th June 1910 was the day chosen by Washington State to celebrate fathers.

Some people did not think it was important to have a Father's Day. Sonora was angered by this response and said, "Either we honour both of our parents, mother and father, or let us desist from honouring either one."

There are no set traditions on how people celebrate Father's Day. However, it is a great time to appreciate any man who plays the role of a father. This might be a grandfather, uncle or even a family friend who has looked after us.

Did you know...?

In the UK, Father's Day is celebrated each year on the third Sunday of June.



Father's Day Gifts

Fathers are often given socks, ties, sports or electronic equipment as gifts. However, all dads are different and would like to receive different things. A homemade card or breakfast in bed is always a good option. A large company that makes cards reports that Father's Day is the fifth largest card sending holiday. It is tradition that fathers are given a white or red rose because the rose is the official flower of Father's Day.

Questions

1. When was sermon held in West Virginia to honour fathers? Tick **one**.

- 5th July 1908
- 5th June 1918
- 5th June 1908
- 5th January 1908

2. Who tried to get an official day started to honour all fathers?

3. How old was Sonora when her mother died? Tick **one**.

- 6
- 9
- 16
- 11

4. Explain why 19th June 1910 is significant.

5. **Find** and **copy** a word that means the same as **outraged**.

6. When is Father's Day celebrated in the UK? Tick **one**.

- on the third Sunday of June
- on the first Sunday of June
- on the last Sunday of June
- on the second Sunday of June

7. What is the official flower of Father's Day? Tick **one**.

- tulip
- rose
- lily
- sunflower

Answers

1. When was sermon held in West Virginia to honour fathers? Tick **one**.

- 5th July 1908
- 5th June 1918
- 5th June 1908**
- 5th January 1908

2. Who tried to get an official day started to honour all fathers?

Sonora Smart Dodd

3. How old was Sonora when her mother died? Tick **one**.

- 6
- 9
- 16**
- 11

4. Explain why 19th June 1910 is significant.

Pupils' own response, such as: 19th June 1910 is a significant date because Washington State chose to celebrate fathers on this day.

5. **Find and copy** a word that means the same as **outraged**.

angered

6. When is Father's Day celebrated in the UK? Tick **one**.

- on the third Sunday of June**
- on the first Sunday of June
- on the last Sunday of June
- on the second Sunday of June

7. What is the official flower of Father's Day? Tick **one**.

- tulip
- rose**
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Father's Day

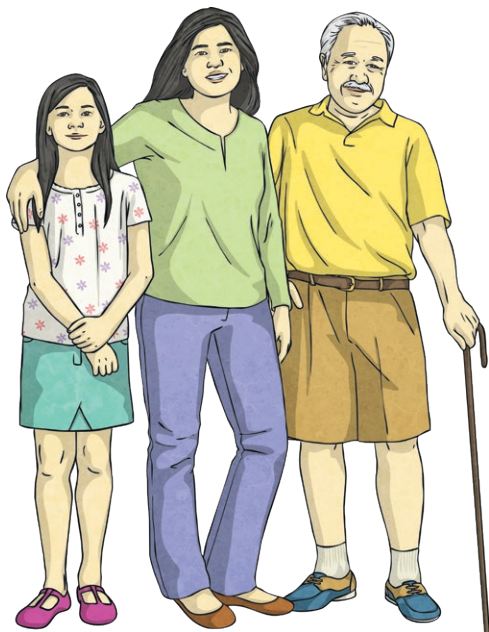
History of Father's Day

On 5th July 1908, a church in West Virginia, USA held the first event in honour of fathers. It was a Sunday sermon in memory of 362 men who had died the previous December in an explosion at the Fairmount Coal Company mines. Many of the men who died were fathers and grandfathers.

A year later, a young woman called Sonora Smart Dodd decided to try to establish an official day to honour all fathers. When Sonora was just 16 years old, her mother died. She was one of six children who were then raised by their single father who was a war veteran.

She went to churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and the government campaigning to start a national day for fathers. Eventually, her efforts paid off and she was successful! The 19th June 1910 was the day chosen by Washington State to celebrate fathers.

At first, Father's Day was not thought to be as important as Mother's Day and people thought it was just an excuse to sell things in shops. Sonora was outraged by this response and stated, "Either we honour both of our parents, mother and father, or let us desist from honouring either one."



There are no set traditions on how people celebrate Father's Day. However, it is a great opportunity to appreciate and celebrate any man who plays the role of a father whether they be a grandfather, uncle or even a family friend who has looked after us.

Did you know...?

Father's Day is celebrated slightly differently around the world. In the UK, Father's Day is celebrated each year on the third Sunday of June. In Germany, Father's Day is celebrated by drinking lots of beer and eating large amounts of delicious food.



Father's Day Gifts

Traditionally, Fathers are often given socks, ties, sports or electronic equipment as gifts. However, all dads are different and would like to receive many different things. A homemade card is always a good option although there will always be a great quantity of cards available to buy in shops leading up to the day. In fact, one card making company reports that Father's Day is the fifth largest card sending holiday in the world. Another tradition is to give fathers a white or red rose as the rose is the official flower of Father's Day. A red rose signifies a living father whereas a white one represents a father who is no longer alive.

Questions

1. How many men died at the Fairmount Coal Company? Tick **one**.

- 326
- 562
- 362
- 263

2. Explain in your own words what Sonora Smart Dodd did.

3. **Find** and **copy** two words which tell us that Sonora's father was an ex-soldier.

4. When did Washington State begin celebrating fathers? Tick **one**.

- 19th July 1910
- 19th June 1910
- 19th January 1901
- 19th June 1901

5. Explain in your own words what you think the word 'desist' means?

6. What **two** things do people in Germany do to celebrate Father's Day?

- ---
- ---

7. Which of the following is **NOT** a traditional gift given to fathers on Father's Day? Tick **one**.

- ties
- socks
- perfume
- flowers

8. What colour rose represents a living father on Father's Day? Tick **one**.

- white
- blue
- pink
- red

Answers

1. How many men died at the Fairmount Coal Company? Tick **one**.
 - 326
 - 562
 - 362**
 - 263
2. Explain in your own words what Sonora Smart Dodd did.

Pupils' own response, such as: Sonora Smart Dodd worked hard to highlight the fact that fathers should be celebrated just as much as mothers were. Sonora's mother died when she was only 16 and so was raised by her father. Therefore, she wanted to make sure that he, like other fathers, were recognised for what they did.
3. **Find and copy** two words which tell us that Sonora's father was an ex-soldier.

war veteran
4. When did Washington State begin celebrating fathers? Tick **one**.
 - 19th July 1910
 - 19th June 1910**
 - 19th January 1901
 - 19th June 1901
5. Explain in your own words what you think the word 'desist' means?

Pupils' own response, such as: I think that the word 'desist' means to stop doing something because Sonora said that if we can't honour both of our parents, we should stop honouring either of them.
6. What **two** things do people in Germany do to celebrate Father's Day?
 - **drink lots of beer**
 - **eat large amounts of delicious food**
7. Which of the following is **NOT** a traditional gift given to fathers on Father's Day? Tick **one**.
 - ties
 - socks
 - perfume**
 - flowers
8. What colour rose represents a living father on Father's Day? Tick **one**.
 - white
 - blue
 - pink
 - red**

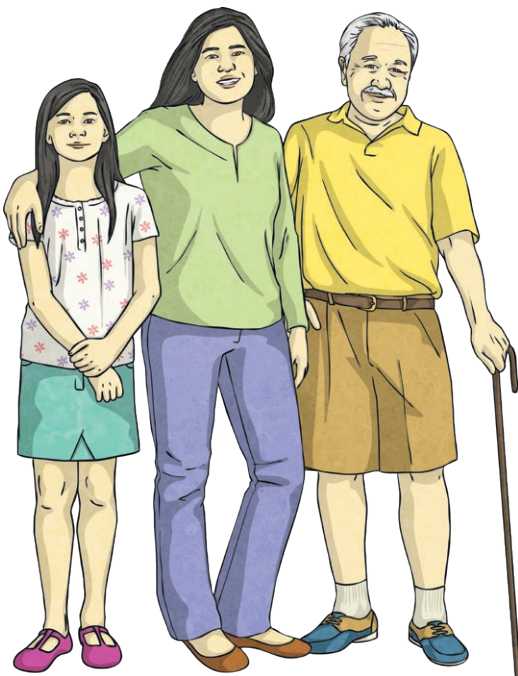
Father's Day

Father's Day is celebrated around the world to recognise the contribution that fathers and father figures make to the lives of their children. This day celebrates fatherhood and male parenting.

How Did Father's Day Begin?

It is thought that the first event organised to honour fathers was held on 5th July 1908 in a church in West Virginia, USA. The Sunday sermon was dedicated to the memory of 362 men who had died the previous December in an explosion at the Fairmount Coal Company mines in Monongah. Many of the men who died were fathers and grandfathers.

Inspired by the previous year's event, a young woman called Sonora Smart Dodd started campaigning for an official day to honour all fathers. When she was just 16 years old, Sonora and her five siblings were left to be raised by their war veteran father after the death of their mother.



Eager to get things started, Sonora went to churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and even the government to raise awareness and to highlight the importance of fathers. However, the idea of Father's Day was met with disinterest as it was not thought to be as important as Mother's Day. People actually thought it was just an excuse to sell things in shops and for companies to make money. Outraged by this response, Sonora declared, "Either we honour both of our parents, mother and father, or let us desist from honouring either one."

Eventually, her determination and hard work paid off. The 19th June 1910 was confirmed by Washington State as a day to celebrate fathers.

Did you know...?

The date when Father's Day is celebrated varies from country to country but in many, Father's Day is held on the third Sunday in June. There are no set traditions on how people celebrate Father's Day and different families commemorate it in different ways.

However, it is a great opportunity to appreciate and celebrate any man who plays the role of a father whether they be a grandfather, uncle or even a family friend who has looked after us.



Father's Day Around the World

Father's Day is celebrated slightly differently around the world. For example, in Germany, Father's Day (known as Männertag) is celebrated by drinking large volumes of beer and indulging in delicious local food.

In Thailand, Father's Day is a public holiday and it is celebrated on December 5th, the birthday of a previous king of the country.

Father's Day Gifts

Traditionally, fathers are often given socks, ties, sports or electronic equipment as gifts. However, all dads are different and would like to receive different things. Most fathers will receive a card, whether homemade or bought from a shop. In fact, according to one card making company, Hallmark, Father's Day is the fifth largest card sending holiday in the year. Another tradition is to give fathers a white or red rose as the rose is the official flower of Father's Day. A red rose signifies a living father whereas a white one represents a deceased father.



Questions

1. Explain in your own words what the phrase '**father figures**' means.

2. What tragic event was commemorated in West Virginia on 5th July 1908?

3. How many brothers and sisters did Sonora Smart Dodd have? Tick **one**.

- 5
- 10
- 6
- 3

4. 'Either we honour both of our parents, mother and father, or let us desist from honouring either one.'

Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer fully.

5. Which state began celebrating fathers on 19th June 1910? Tick **one**.

- Texas
- Virginia
- Washington
- California

6. What is Father's Day called in Germany?

7. What do Hallmark make?

8. Explain what is meant by '...Father's Day is the fifth largest card sending holiday'.

Answers

1. Explain in your own words what the phrase '**father figures**' means.

Pupils' own response, such as: I think that the phrase 'father figures' refers to any male person in your life that supports you and looks after you like a father would. This could be a grandfather, male relative or even a family friend.

2. What tragic event was commemorated in West Virginia on 5th July 1908?

An explosion at the Fairmount Coal Company mines in Monongah where 362 men died.

3. How many brothers and sisters did Sonora Smart Dodd have? Tick **one**.

5

10

6

3

4. 'Either we honour both of our parents, mother and father, or let us desist from honouring either one.'

Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer fully.

Pupils' own response, such as: Yes, I agree with this statement because it is not fair to honour one parent and not the other. Some people do not have a mother and therefore need a day to celebrate and honour their fathers.

5. Which state began celebrating fathers on 19th June 1910? Tick **one**.

Texas

Virginia

Washington

California

6. What is Father's Day called in Germany?

Männertag

7. What do Hallmark make?

cards

8. Explain what is meant by '...Father's Day is the fifth largest card sending holiday'.

Pupils' own response, such as: I think that '...Father's Day is the fifth largest card sending holiday' means that in a year there are four other holidays in which more cards are sent than on Father's Day. These could be Christmas, Mother's Day, Easter and Halloween.