

FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS · GRADES 2–4

Mother's Day & Father's Day

Where they came from

Sensitivity note for teachers

Some children won't have a mother or father in their life. Some have two of one. Some live with grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster carers. Frame the lesson as 'celebrating the people who LOOK AFTER us' — and let children write or make for whoever fits in their family.

When is Mother's Day around the world?

Country	When
UK / Ireland	Fourth Sunday of Lent (March)
USA / Canada / Australia / NZ	Second Sunday of May
Mexico / Spain	May 10 / first Sunday of May
Indonesia	December 22
Egypt / Middle East	March 21
Thailand	August 12 (Queen's birthday)
Russia	Last Sunday of November

Father's Day origins

Started in 1909 in Spokane, Washington, by Sonora Smart Dodd — to honor her father who raised her and her 5 siblings alone after her mother died. Took 60 years to be made a US national holiday (1972). Most English-speaking countries celebrate the third Sunday of June.

Activity ideas



<p>Coupon book</p> <p>Fold paper into a book. Each page = one promise (e.g. 'one hug', 'one tidy bedroom', 'one quiet hour').</p>	<p>Hand-print card</p> <p>Trace your hand. Inside, write things you love about the person.</p>
<p>Memory jar</p> <p>Decorate a jar. Inside, slips of paper — a favorite memory on each one.</p>	

