Mothering Sunday

Adapted from: www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/holydays/motheringsunday_1.shtml

Name _____ Date _____

Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Lent. Although it's often called Mothers' Day it has **know** connection with the American festival of that name.

Traditionally, it was a day when children, mainly daughters, who had gone to work as domestic servants were given a day **of** to visit their mother and family.

Today it is a day when children give presents, flowers, and home-made cards to their mothers.

History of Mothering Sunday

Most Sundays in the year churchgoers in England worship at **there** nearest parish or 'daughter church'.

Centuries ago it was considered important for people to return **too** their home or 'mother' church once a year. So each year in the middle of Lent, people would visit their 'mother' church - the main church or cathedral of the area.

Inevitably, the return to the 'mother' church became an occasion **four** family reunions when children who were working away returned home. (It was quite common in those days for children to leave home for work once they were ten years old.)

Most historians think that it was the return to the 'Mother' church **witch** led to the tradition of children, particularly those working as domestic servants, or as apprentices, being given the day off to visit their mother and family.

As they walked along the country lanes, children **wood** pick wild **flours** or violets to take to church or give to their mother as a gift.

Traditional foods

Mothering Sunday was also known as Refreshment Sunday because the fasting rules for Lent were relaxed that day.

Originally, both Old and New Testament lessons on mid-lent Sunday made a point of food.

The Gospel reading from the New Testament told the story of how Jesus fed five thousand people with only five small barley loaves and two small fish.

Simnel cake

The food item specially associated with Mothering Sunday is the Simnel cake. A Simnel cake is a fruit cake with two layers of almond paste, one on top and one in the middle.

The cake is made with 11 balls of marzipan icing on top representing the 11 disciples. (Judas is not included.) Traditionally, sugar violets would also be added.

Why we should celebrate Mothering Sunday

It's a good idea to celebrate Mothering Sunday because our mothers are really important to us. They have bought us up and looked after us throughout our life. Most of all they have given us the gift of life.

Give your mother some flowers or chocolates to show her how much you appreciate her. At the very least you should give her a card telling her that you love her.

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Reading Task

1. You read this article on the internet. What is the main purpose of this text?

   _____

   _____

Choose the right answer to the next 2 questions.

2. Mothering Sunday was usually:
   (a) on the third Sunday in Lent.
   (b) when people who worked in factories were given a day off to visit their mothers.
   (c) when people returned to their 'mother church' and had family reunions.

3. A Simnel Cake has:
   (a) 3 layers of almond paste.
   (b) sugar pansies.
   (c) 11 marzipan balls on top.

4. Your friend does not think it is important to give mothers presents on Mothering Sunday. Use the information in the text to give your friend two reasons why he/she should give his/her mother a present this Mothering Sunday.

   (a) _____

   _____

   (b) _____

   _____

5. Find the homophones in bold on page 1. Change each homophone to the correct word.

   _____ _____ _____ _____

   _____ _____ _____ _____

6. Why does the text mention the story of Jesus feeding five thousand people?

   _____

7. Using the information in the text, explain the difference between a 'mother' church and a 'daughter' church.

   _____

   _____

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Writing Task

After you have read the article, you buy your mother a really nice present. However, instead of buying her a card to go with it, you decide to write her a thank you letter.

In your letter you should do the following things:

- Say why you think Mother's Day is important.
- Explain why you want to thank her.

You may add any other ideas of your own.

Use sentences and write in Standard English.

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Curriculum mapping and answers

Functional Skills L1 English mapping	
Coverage and range statements provide an indication of the type of content candidates are expected to apply in functional contexts. Relevant content can also be drawn from equivalent (school) National Curriculum levels and the Adult Literacy standards. ✓ *indicates the main coverage and range skills that are (or can be) covered in this resource. However, these will vary with the student group and how the resource is used by the teacher.* **Reference:** Ofqual (2009), *Functional Skills criteria for English: Entry 1, Entry 2, Entry 3, level 1 and level 2.* http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/	
Level 1 Reading	**Skill standard (SS):** Read and understand a range of straightforward texts
Coverage and range statements	
a) Identify the main points and ideas ✓	1, and how they are presented in a variety of texts.
b) Read and understand texts in detail ✓	2, 3, 6
c) Utilise information contained in texts ✓	7
d) Identify suitable responses to texts ✓	4
Level 1 Writing	**(SS):** Write a range of texts to communicate information, ideas and opinions, using formats and styles suitable for their purpose and audience
a) Write clearly and coherently, including an appropriate level of detail ✓	
b) Present information in a logical sequence ✓	
c) Use language, format and structure suitable for purpose and audience ✓	
d) Use correct grammar, including correct and consistent use of tense ✓	
e) Ensure written work includes generally accurate punctuation / spelling & that meaning is clear ✓	5
Level 1 Speaking, Listening and Communication	**(SS):** Take full part in formal and informal discussions and exchanges that include unfamiliar subjects
a) Make relevant and extended contributions to discussions, allowing for and responding to others' input	
b) Prepare for and contribute to the formal discussion of ideas and opinions	
c) Make different kinds of contributions to discussions	
f) Present information/points of view clearly and in appropriate language	

* This resource also covers many adult literacy curriculum http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/content/etf1286 elements.

NOTE: Other answers may be possible. Check with your tutor.

1. What is the main purpose of the text? To **explain** the background / history / customs of Mothering Sunday to the reader. (Accept to inform / tell….)
2. Mothering Sunday was usually: (c) when people returned to their 'mother church' and had family reunions.
3. A Simnel Cake has: 11 marzipan balls on top.
4. Your friend does not think it is important to give mothers presents on Mothering Sunday. Use the information in the text to give your friend two reasons why he/she should give his/her mother a present this Mothering Sunday. (a) to show how much he or she appreciates / loves his/her mother (b) to thank his/her mother for looking after him/her.
5. Find the homophones in bold on page 1. Change each homophone to the correct word. Know - no, of - off, there - their, too - to, four - for, witch - which, wood - would, flours - flowers. See also corrected text on next page. *This is provided for tutors that may want a correct version of the text for other purposes.*
6. Why does the text mention the story of Jesus feeding five thousand people? As an example of a mid-Lent lesson, from the New Testament, that mentions / makes a point of food.
7. Using the information in the text, explain the difference between a 'mother' church and a 'daughter' church. The 'mother' church was the home church (the one nearest to a person's home / place of birth). The 'daughter' church was the church nearest to a person's place of work once they had left home / worked away from home (e.g. as domestic servants or apprentices).

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Inevitably, the return to the 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions when children who were working away returned home. (It was quite common in those days for children to leave home for work once they were ten years old.)

Most historians think that it was the return to the 'Mother' church which led to the tradition of children, particularly those working as domestic servants, or as apprentices, being given the day off to visit their mother and family.

As they walked along the country lanes, children would pick wild flowers or violets to take to church or give to their mother as a gift.