

Father's Day

On 5th July 1908, a church in West Virginia sponsored 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 Fairmont Coal Company mines in Monongah. Many of the men who died were fathers and grandfathers.

A year later, an ambitious young woman called Sonora Smart Dodd decided to try to organise an official day to honour all fathers. She was one of six children who had all been raised by their single father. She went to churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and the government, to try to get support. She was successful!

Sonora originally wanted the day to be celebrated on her father's birthday – 5th June, but there wasn't time to arrange it properly, so the 19th June 1910 was chosen instead. Sonora spent the day delivering Father's Day gifts to all fathers in the city that were too ill to leave their homes.

At first, Father's Day was not thought to be as important as Mother's Day, and was actually considered a bit of a joke, and just an excuse to sell things in shops.

However, Sonora was outraged and said:

“Either we honour both of our parents, mother and father, or let us desist from honouring either one. But to single out just one of our two parents and omit the other is the most grievous insult imaginable.”

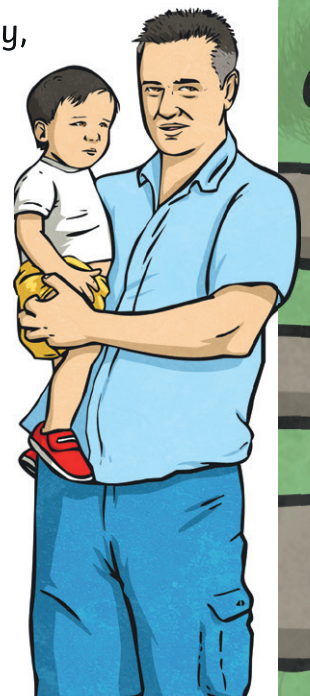
Finally, in 1972, President Richard Nixon made Father's Day an official national holiday, and issued a statement that it be “an occasion for renewal of the love and gratitude we bear to our fathers.”

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

Did you know?

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

Often fathers are given cards and gifts on Father's Day, typically socks and ties, or sports and electronic equipment. All fathers are different and will be grateful for a special card, gift or act of kindness that is personal to them. A homemade card is always a good option, or breakfast in bed.



Questions about Father's Day

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. What happened on the 5th July 1908 in West Virginia and why?

2. Why do you think Sonora Smart Dodd was so determined to have a national day just for fathers?

3. What word tells us how angry she was that there wasn't a special day for honouring fathers?

4. What does "desist from honouring either one" mean?

5. How could you work out the date of Father's Day next year?

6. What did Nixon want Father's Day to be about?

7. Apart from fathers, who else can be celebrated on this day?

8. What is a 'tradition'?

9. How will you celebrate Father's Day?

Questions about Father's Day

Answers

1. What happened on the 5th July 1908 in West Virginia and why?
The first sponsored event to honour fathers took place because 362 men had died the year before in a mining explosion.
2. Why do you think Sonora Smart Dodd was so determined to have a national day just for fathers?
Because her father had raised her and her 5 siblings all on his own, and she felt that fathers should be honoured as well as mothers.
3. What word tells us how angry she was that there wasn't a special day for honouring fathers?
Outraged.
4. What does "desist from honouring either one" mean?
That people should stop appreciating mothers if they weren't going to honour fathers too.
5. How could you work out the date of Father's Day next year?
It is on the third Sunday of June each year.
6. What did Nixon want Father's Day to be about?
Renewing the love and gratitude for our fathers.
7. Apart from fathers, who else can be celebrated on this day?
Grandfathers and uncles; any men who are like a father to people.
8. What is a 'tradition'?
A set of customs that is passed on from generation to generation.
9. How will you celebrate Father's Day?
Pupil's own response.

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 Fairmont 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 get an official day started to honour all fathers. When Sonora was 10 years old, her mother died. She was one of six children who were raised by their father.

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. However, Sonora was outraged and said:

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

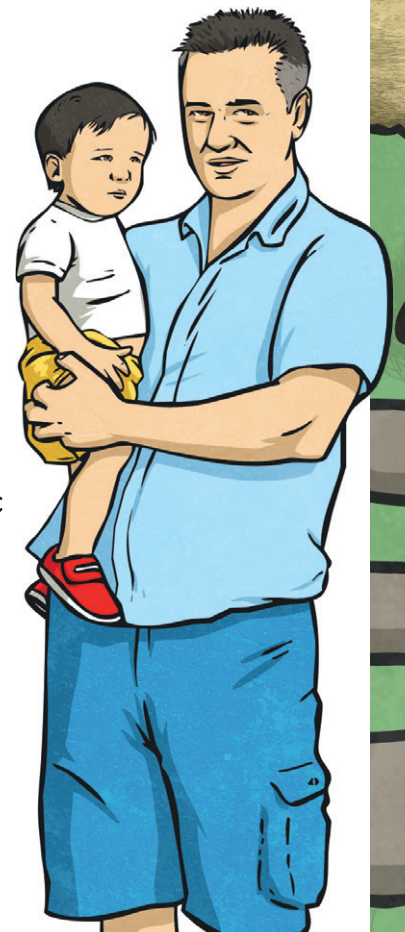
In 1972, President Richard Nixon made Father's Day an official national holiday.

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

Did you know?

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

Often, fathers are given socks and ties, or sports and electronic equipment as a gift, although all dads are different and will like to receive different things. A homemade card is always a good option, or breakfast in bed.



Questions about Father's Day

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. Why was a special sermon given in a church in West Virginia in July 1908?

2. Who was Sonora Smart Dodd?

3. What do you think 'successful' means?

4. Who did Sonora try to get support from?

5. In what year was Father's Day made a national holiday?

6. Who else might be celebrated on this day?

7. What does 'role of a father' mean?

8. Will you celebrate Father's Day? If so, how?

Questions about Father's Day

Answers

1. Why was a special sermon given in a church in West Virginia in July 1908?
To honour men who had died in a mining accident.
2. Who was Sonora Smart Dodd?
A woman who tried to get a national day to celebrate fathers.
3. What do you think 'successful' means?
To achieve what you set out to do.
4. Who did Sonora try to get support from?
Local churches, YMCA and shopkeepers.
5. In what year was Father's Day made a national holiday?
1972
6. Who else might be celebrated on this day?
Grandfathers, uncles, male family members and friends.
7. What does 'role of a father' mean?
Acting like a dad/father to somebody who isn't necessarily their child.
8. Will you celebrate Father's Day? If so, how?
Pupil's own response.

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On 5th July 1908, a church in West Virginia, US sponsored 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 Fairmont 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 get an official day to honour all fathers, started. Her mother had died when Sonora was 10 years old. She was one of six children who had all been raised by their single father.

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She was successful! The 19th June 1910 was the day chosen by Washington State to celebrate fathers.

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However, Sonora was outraged and said:

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

Often fathers are given socks and ties, or sports and electronic equipment as a gift, although all dads are different, and will be grateful for different kinds of presents. A homemade card is always a good option, or breakfast in bed.



Questions about Father's Day

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. What happened on the 5th July 1908, in West Virginia?

2. Why do you think Sonora Smart Dodd was so determined to have a national day just for fathers?

3. What does the word 'outraged' mean?

4. What date was chosen for the first official Father's Day?

5. When will Father's Day be celebrated next year?

6. What was the name of the man who made Father's Day a national holiday?

7. Who else might be celebrated on this day?

8. What does 'appreciate' mean?

9. How will you celebrate Father's Day?

Questions about Father's Day

Answers

1. What happened on the 5th July 1908, in West Virginia?
The first sponsored event took place to honour fathers (who had died in a mining accident).
2. Why do you think Sonora Smart Dodd was so determined to have a national day just for fathers?
Because her mother had died and her father raised her on his own.
3. What does the word 'outraged' mean?
That she was angry.
4. What date was chosen for the first official Father's Day?
19th June 1910.
5. When will Father's Day be celebrated next year?
On the third Sunday in June.
6. What was the name of the man who made Father's Day a national holiday?
President Nixon
7. Who else might be celebrated on this day?
Grandfathers, uncles, male family members or friends who are a father figure.
8. What does 'appreciate' mean?
To say 'thank you' or feel grateful.
9. How will you celebrate Father's Day?
Pupil's own response.