Mother’s Day Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. When does the United States Code designate Mother’s Day?

A. The second Sunday in May
B. The first Sunday in May
C. The third Sunday in May
D. The last Sunday in May

Correct answer: A. The second Sunday in May
U.S. law designates the second Sunday in May. The numbered date can change each year.

2. Which date does Mexico observe as Día de las Madres?

A. May 15
B. May 1
C. May 10
D. May 25

Correct answer: C. May 10
The government of Oaxaca describes Mother’s Day in Mexico as a May 10 observance every year, whatever the weekday.

3. Which flower does a Thai government historical note identify as a symbol of Mother’s Day in Thailand?

A. Marigold
B. Jasmine
C. Chrysanthemum
D. Orchid

Correct answer: B. Jasmine
The Thai account identifies jasmine, called dok mali in Thai, as the flower associated with Mother’s Day.

4. Costa Rica’s National Archives holds a 1932 decree naming a date for Mother’s Day. Which date did it designate?

A. October 15
B. March 15
C. May 10
D. August 15

Correct answer: D. August 15
The decree preserved by Costa Rica’s National Archives designated August 15 each year as Mother’s Day.

5. Paraguay observes Mother’s Day on May 15. Which national commemoration does the country’s statistics institute say coincides with it?

A. The founding of Asunción
B. National independence
C. The adoption of the current constitution
D. The anniversary of Paraguay joining the United Nations

Correct answer: B. National independence
Paraguay’s National Statistics Institute connects the May 15 observance with the commemoration of national independence.

6. When a Mother’s Day service was held in Grafton, West Virginia, in 1908, what did Anna Jarvis send for the people attending?

A. White carnations
B. Red roses
C. Blue ribbons
D. Yellow tulips

Correct answer: A. White carnations
The National Park Service records that Jarvis sent white carnations to the Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church for the service.

7. Which groups does the West Virginia state archive credit Ann Reeves Jarvis with organizing before her daughter’s Mother’s Day campaign?

A. The Woman’s Christian Temperance Union
B. The National Congress of Mothers
C. Women’s Institutes
D. Mothers’ Day Work Clubs

Correct answer: D. Mothers’ Day Work Clubs
Ann Reeves Jarvis organized Mothers’ Day Work Clubs in several West Virginia communities. The state archive describes their local public health and sanitation work.

8. Which painting appeared on the U.S. three-cent stamp issued in 1934 to honor mothers?

A. The Blue Boy
B. American Gothic
C. Whistler’s Mother
D. The Gross Clinic

Correct answer: C. Whistler’s Mother
The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library identifies James McNeill Whistler’s portrait of his mother as the image used on the stamp.

9. According to the newspaper Excélsior’s records, who received its founder Rafael Alducin at the Vatican and discussed Mexico’s new Mother’s Day observance?

A. Pope Pius XI
B. Pope Pius X
C. Pope Benedict XV
D. Pope Pius XII

Correct answer: A. Pope Pius XI
Excélsior’s account says Pius XI met with Alducin and congratulated the newspaper on promoting a day to honor mothers in Mexico.

10. The Sunshine Coast Council’s history describes Janet Heyden’s Mother’s Day gift drive in 1920s Sydney. Who was the drive meant to reach?

A. Organizers of a citywide flower show
B. Teachers retiring from Sydney’s public schools
C. New arrivals at Sydney’s railway stations
D. Women she met during visits to a Sydney hospital

Correct answer: D. Women she met during visits to a Sydney hospital
Heyden began gathering donations for women she had met while visiting a Sydney hospital. She was concerned that they had been overlooked.

11. What did Julia Ward Howe ask for in her 1870 peace appeal, a document often cited in histories of Mother’s Day?

A. Ask city governments to establish a fixed day for taking a census.
B. Ask the U.S. president to establish a national family holiday that May.
C. Convene women from different countries to discuss international disputes and advance peace.
D. Limit the meeting to an American committee for local holiday ceremonies.

Correct answer: C. Convene women from different countries to discuss international disputes and advance peace.
Howe proposed an international gathering of women to promote peaceful settlement of disputes. Her appeal invited participation across national boundaries.

12. A draft caption credits William Douglas Hopen with making the sculpture Mother With Children and taking its archival photo. Which credit line matches the Library of Congress record?

A. Carol Highsmith sculpted it, and William Douglas Hopen took the photograph.
B. William Douglas Hopen sculpted it, and Carol Highsmith took the photograph.
C. William Douglas Hopen made both the sculpture and the photograph.
D. Carol Highsmith made both the sculpture and the photograph.

Correct answer: B. William Douglas Hopen sculpted it, and Carol Highsmith took the photograph.
The Library of Congress identifies Hopen as the sculptor of the work outside the Mother’s Day shrine in Grafton. It credits the photograph to Highsmith.

13. A museum guide wants to explain Anna Jarvis’s campaign for national recognition and her disputes with florists and card sellers. Which account fits both parts of her history?

A. She first led a campaign for florists and later asked for private observances only.
B. She worked to establish the observance and later promoted commercial card sales as its main purpose.
C. She opposed national recognition and treated the day as a commercial event from the start.
D. She worked to establish the observance and later objected to businesses profiting from it.

Correct answer: D. She worked to establish the observance and later objected to businesses profiting from it.
Jarvis sought public recognition of Mother’s Day. After it became established, she objected to inflated flower prices and standardized greeting cards.

14. In two fictional calendars, May 10 falls on a Sunday in Year A and a Saturday in Year B. Mexico observes Mother’s Day on May 10. In which year does the U.S. observance fall on the same day?

A. Year A only, when May 10 is the second Sunday.
B. Year B only, when May 10 is the second Saturday.
C. Both years, because the U.S. rule fixes the date at May 10.
D. Neither year, because the U.S. date is always one week earlier.

Correct answer: A. Year A only, when May 10 is the second Sunday.
In Year A, May 3 and May 10 are the first two Sundays. In Year B, the second Sunday is May 11, a day after Mexico’s observance.

15. A fictional French calendar has Sunday, May 31, as both Pentecost and the last Sunday of May. Under France’s rule for the Fête des Mères, where should the Mother’s Day entry go?

A. Sunday, May 31
B. Sunday, May 24
C. Sunday, June 7
D. Sunday, June 14

Correct answer: C. Sunday, June 7
France’s rule sets the usual date at the last Sunday in May. When that Sunday is Pentecost, the observance moves to the first Sunday in June, which is June 7 in this calendar.