

Mother's Day Across the Globe

by Abby Slater



This year, in the United States, Mother's Day falls on May 12th. As the date quickly approaches stores are planning Mother's Day sales, Cafes are preparing their Mother's Day brunch menu, and children are finding homemade or store-bought gift ideas. However, this holiday as we know and love it, has taken many forms over the years and across the world.

The United Kingdom

Mother's Day in the United Kingdom originally stems from the European tradition of "Mothering Sunday" traditionally held on the 4th Sunday of lent. On this day Christians would return to their home church for service. This was an extremely special day, especially in the early mid-evil Today, Mother's Day in the U.K. is much like the holiday in the United States, in which it focuses on appreciating one's mothers, buying gifts, and spending time together; however, Mother's Day is still traditionally held on the 4th Sunday of Lent.

The United States

The "Mothering Sunday" ritual of the United Kingdom migrated to the United States to be transformed over the decades. The Mother's Day we know today was founded by, Anna Jarvis, daughter of Anna Reeves Jarvis. Jarvis created Mother's Day in appreciation for all mothers, as a way to honor her late mother who had previously established "Mothers' Day Work Club", which sought to teach young women to properly care for their children.

Mexico

Mother's Day, or "dia de las Madres" in Mexico is a very important and very busy holiday and annually takes place on May 10th. The day is full of celebration, gifts, food, and music. A traditional song called "Las Mananitas" is often sung to the mother of the household in the early morning.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia does not have a westernized version of the holiday; however, they do have their own celebration called the Antrosht Festival. For this celebration children return home to their families in the fall to eat food, perform songs and dances that tell stories of their family. As a tradition, the sons often provide the meat for their ritual "meat hash", while the daughters bring cheese and vegetables.

France

France has had two holidays in which they celebrate and honor their mothers. The original holiday, which took place in March, had an interesting beginning. During WWI the French male population was down due to lost lives in battle; after the war the government began giving medals to mothers who had lots of children in order to motivate a rise in the population. Today the French celebrate Mother's Day much like the U.S. and the U.K. on the 4th Sunday of May, known as "*fetes des meres*". This holiday is celebrated with gifts, cards, and flower-shaped cake.

Russia

Like France, Russia has had two different holidays meant to honor women and mothers in the country. In Russia's early history, back when they were known as the Soviet Union, they had a holiday in March called "International Women's Day", which has been adapted world wide and is now celebrated for the month of March in the U.S. Now Russia also has their own Mother's Day holiday that is celebrated in November.

India

The westernized version of Mother's Day has just recently migrated to India and falls in May. However, the Hindu religion in India has had their own holiday celebrating mothers and family for centuries. This celebration, known as Durga Puja, takes form as a festival meant to honor the mother goddess, Durga. The October festival stems from a story of the goddess reuniting with her mother and

father to show off her own family. In observance of this festival families spend lots of time together preparing for the celebration and then finally celebrating for the next two days.

<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/mothers-day>
<http://time.com/94286/mothers-day-2014-world/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/kidscbc2/the-feed/how-do-they-celebrate-mothers-day-in-other-countries>