

Mothers Day



MARTIN

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People in ancient cultures created many holidays and holiday customs that we still enjoy today.

The used evergreens to decorate their homes for winter holidays. They created New Year stories and celebrations. They started the beginning of Valentine's Day.



But the ancients did not create everything. They did create many holidays to honor their gods, some of whom were women, but that's quite different than setting aside a special day to thank your own mother for all she does for you.

Mothers Day





*Mothers
Day*

No matter what you may have read on the web, Mother's Day has no ties to ancient cultures. Mother's Day is a modern national holiday. This is the real story of Mother's Day . . .

Mothers Day



Anna Jarvis was born in West Virginia in 1864, toward the end of the American Civil War.

She was the 9th of 11 children.

As she grew up, Anna Jarvis rarely noticed all her mother did for her family. Her Mom raised her children, took care of her home and husband, and held a job outside the house as a school teacher. Yet it was seldom that any of her family remembered to thank her for all she did for them.

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After her mother died, Anna Jarvis felt, well, horrible. She wanted so much to have another chance to let her Mom know how much she was appreciated.

But it was too late.

Anna decided something rather unusual. She decided to try and create a new holiday, a holiday to remind people who are fortunate enough to have a great Mom to thank their own Mom, at least once each year.





Anna worked very hard to convince the American people that we needed this new holiday – Mother’s Day – to strengthen our family bonds. She wrote letters and gave talks and tried to get other people involved in her idea.

In 1914, Anna achieved success. President Woodrow Wilson issued the first Mother's Day proclamation, stating that the observance serves as a "public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country." This made Mother's Day an official national holiday, celebrated each year on the 2nd Sunday in May.





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*To Anna Jarvis, this proclamation **did not** express the sentiment she had worked so hard to achieve.*

The holiday she had in mind was never intended to thank all mothers, but rather for each of us to thank our own mother. But, it was a start.



It has been nearly 100 years since President Woodrow Wilson made Mother's Day a national holiday. Since that time, Mother's Day has been adopted by people around the world, and many celebrate Mother's Day as Anna meant it to be – a day of personal thanks.

Throughout time, people have created holidays and festivals to honor gods, heroes, seasons, and all kinds of happenings.

Nobody knows who will create the next holiday. Perhaps the next new holiday will be created by you!





Thank you for watching.