



One Day, Many Dates

Read the passage and answer the questions. (CEFR B1–B2)

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

1 If you send a Happy Mother's Day message to friends around the world on the same day, many of them will be confused. The date of Mother's Day is not random; it often reflects a country's religion, politics, and history. Britain's Mothering Sunday follows the Christian calendar, so it moves with Easter. In Thailand, the date was fixed in 1976 to the birthday of Queen Sirikit, linking family love with loyalty to the royal family.



2 Governments have also used the day for their own goals. In Egypt, two journalists promoted the idea in the 1950s, and their date of March 21 spread across the Arab world. In the early twentieth century, France honored mothers of large families, and during the Second World War, the Vichy government promoted the holiday to encourage more births. By contrast, Indonesia chose December 22 to remember the first national women's congress in 1928, which connects motherhood with the struggle for independence.

3 So a simple question like when is Mother's Day can open a window into how each society defines the role of women. Perhaps that is the most valuable lesson the holiday can teach.

Comprehension

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- (A) Mother's Day was invented by Queen Sirikit of Thailand. (B) Most countries celebrate Mother's Day on the same day as the United States.
(C) The date of Mother's Day in each country often reflects its religion, politics, and history. (D) Governments should not be allowed to choose holidays.

2. Why does the date of Britain's Mothering Sunday change every year?

- (A) Because it follows the Christian calendar and moves with Easter. (B) Because the royal family chooses the date.
(C) Because it is always on the first day of spring. (D) Because shops decide the date for sales.

3. Why did Indonesia choose December 22 for Mother's Day?

- (A) To celebrate the birthday of a queen. (B) To encourage families to have more children.
(C) To follow the date used in Egypt. (D) To remember the first national women's congress in 1928.

4. What do the examples of Thailand and the Vichy government in France have in common?

- (A) Both moved Mother's Day to December. (B) In both cases, the state used Mother's Day to support its own goals or values.
(C) Both followed the Christian calendar. (D) In both cases, journalists started the holiday.

5. In paragraph 1, the word 'random' is closest in meaning to

- (A) very popular (B) decided by law
(C) the same everywhere (D) chosen without any reason or plan

6. Why does the writer begin with sending a Happy Mother's Day message to friends around the world?

- (A) To advertise a new messaging app. (B) To introduce the topic with a familiar situation that shows the dates are different.
(C) To argue that people should not send messages on Mother's Day. (D) To explain why Mother's Day started in the United States.



Vocabulary, Paraphrase & Summary

Match the words with the definitions. Then rewrite and summarize.

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

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|----------------|---|
| 1. random | a. used to show that something is very different from what was just said |
| 2. loyalty | b. a large formal meeting of people from different places to discuss ideas |
| 3. royal | c. to say or decide exactly what something is or should be |
| 4. promote | d. happening or chosen without any reason, plan, or pattern |
| 5. honor | e. strong support for a person, group, or country over a long time |
| 6. by contrast | f. connected with a king or queen and their family |
| 7. congress | g. to help something become popular or known, often by advertising or supporting it |
| 8. define | h. to show great respect for someone, often in public |

Paraphrase — say it in your own words

1. “The date of Mother's Day is not random; it often reflects a country's religion, politics, and history.”

Hint: Start with 'Countries do not choose ...' and use 'because of'.

2. “In Thailand, the date was fixed in 1976 to the birthday of Queen Sirikit, linking family love with loyalty to the royal family.”

Hint: Make two sentences. Use 'In 1976, Thailand decided ...' and 'This connects ...'.

3. “So a simple question like when is Mother's Day can open a window into how each society defines the role of women.”

Hint: Use 'help us understand' instead of 'open a window into'.

Summary

Summarize the passage in about 50 words.



Debate & Opinion Essay

Prepare for a debate. Then write your opinion (100–150 words).

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

Motion: Every country should celebrate Mother's Day on the same date.

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- One date would stop the confusion when people send messages to friends around the world.
- A shared date could show that all mothers are valued equally, whatever their country.
- Governments could no longer use the date for their own political goals, as the Vichy government did.

Add your own reason:

AGAINST 反対

- Each date reflects a country's own religion, history, or values, and those differences are worth keeping.
- Dates like Indonesia's December 22 remember important events in that country's history.
- No single date would fit every season and calendar; May is spring in Japan but fall in Australia.

Add your own reason:

Opinion	<i>I believe / I think that ...</i>
Reason 1	<i>First, ... For example, ...</i>
Reason 2	<i>Second, ... In fact, ...</i>
Counter	<i>Some people say ... However, ...</i>
Conclusion	<i>In conclusion, ...</i>