

- 1 When was the first Father's Day and how was it celebrated? Read the text to find out.



## The History of Father's Day

**F**ather's Day is celebrated annually on the third Sunday in June in most countries around the world. It's a day when people can show appreciation for their father and all that he does for them. They do this by giving them cards, and gifts like ties, socks, tools and sports equipment. Some families eat a special meal together while others go out for the day. Father's Day has been celebrated for over 100 years, but how did it begin?

Father's Day celebrations date back to 1909 in the USA. The original idea for Father's Day came from Sonora Smart Dodd, a woman from Spokane, Washington, USA. Her mother had died and her father, William, was raising six children all on his own. Sonora wanted a day to celebrate her father and

other fathers who work hard to support their families. The first Father's Day took place on 19th June 1910 in Spokane. To celebrate, young women gave out red roses at church for people to pin onto their clothes and wear in honour of their fathers. Sonora then rode in carriage around the city giving gifts to fathers in their homes.

Some years later, in 1924, the president of the USA recognised Father's Day and encouraged people to celebrate it to help build stronger relationships between children and their fathers. However, it wasn't made into a permanent public holiday until 1972.

### Did you know?

The rose is the official flower for Father's Day.



- 2 Answer the questions.

1 When is Father's Day celebrated in most countries?

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2 Why do we celebrate it?

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3 What are some common Father's Day gifts?

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4 Why did Sonora Smart Dodd want to create a Father's Day?

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5 In which city was Father's Day first celebrated?

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- 3 Use the information in the text to say what happened in the years in the timeline.



- 4 **ICT** Find out more about the history of Father's Day and present it to the class.