

Mothering Sunday – Skimming and Scanning Task

Mothering Sunday is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent. This means that the date changes each year. Lent is a time when Christians remember the 40 days and nights Jesus spent in the desert. During this time, Christians give up food like meat, fish, fats, eggs and milky products.

Mothering Sunday is a day to spoil your mother and make her feel special. This could be done by making cards or gifts. You could make a lovely meal, or help do jobs around the house. Mothering Sunday is a great excuse for the family to come together and celebrate.

Many years ago, however, Mothering Sunday was celebrated differently. It was common for Christians in England to attend church every Sunday. Children as young as ten would have had to work. This could have been as a servant or apprentice. Many of them would no longer be living at home. Instead, they would visit the church close to where they worked.

Once a year, families would be given time off by their employers to worship at their home or 'Mother' church. This would have been the church where they were baptised as a child. They were given the day off to travel home to their family and mother. Children might have picked flowers on the way home as a gift. Some might have been allowed to bake a Simnel cake to give to their mother. This is a fruit cake which has a layer of marzipan in the middle and a layer on top. It is decorated with 11 marzipan balls; representing the 11 disciples. On Mothering Sunday, the rules of fasting for Lent were relaxed. This meant that families could enjoy a special meal together.

Visiting our 'Mother' church is not as common today but the tradition of spoiling our mother has continued.

Skimming and Scanning Challenge

1. The word 'Mothering' appears 5 times. Underline them all in red.
2. The word 'Sunday' appears 7 times. Underline them all in blue.
3. The word 'the' appears 14 times. Underline them all in green.
4. The word 'church' appears 5 times. Underline them all in purple.
5. The word 'is' appears 7 times. Underline them all in yellow.
6. Circle the word 'mother' in red. How many are there? _____
7. Circle the word 'Christian' in blue. How many are there? _____
8. Circle the word 'Lent' in green. How many are there? _____
9. Circle the word 'home' in purple. How many are there? _____

Circle the correct answer to complete each sentence. Use skimming and scanning techniques to find the evidence in the text.

10. During Lent, Christians give up food such as:

fruit.	vegetables.	eggs.	seeds.
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11. Families would be given time off by their:

mother.	father.	friends.	employer.
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12. You could spoil your Mother by making:

a card.	a mess.	her do jobs.	lots of noise.
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13. It was common for Christians in England to attend church every:

Saturday.	Sunday.	Friday.	Thursday.
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14. Many years ago, Children might have worked as:

car mechanics.	telephonists.	TV reviewers.	servants.
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15. The 11 marzipan balls on top of a Simnel cake represent:

the disciples.	footballs.	eggs.	stones.
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Mothering Sunday is a day to spoil your **mother** and make her feel special. This could be done by making cards or gifts. You could make a lovely meal, or help do jobs around **the** house. **Mothering Sunday** is a great excuse for **the** family to come together and celebrate.

Many years ago, however, **Mothering Sunday** was celebrated differently. It was common for **Christians** in England to attend **church** every **Sunday**. Children as young as ten would have had to work. This could have been as a servant or apprentice. Many of them would no longer be living at **home**. Instead, they would visit **the church** close to where they worked.

Once a year, families would be given time off by their employers to worship at their **home** or **'Mother' church**. This would have been **the church** where they were baptised as a child. They were given **the** day off to travel **home** to their family and **mother**. Children might have picked flowers on **the** way **home** as a gift. Some might have been allowed to bake a Simnel cake to give to their **mother**. This is a fruit cake which has a layer of marzipan in **the** middle and a layer on top. It is decorated with 11 marzipan balls; representing **the** 11 disciples. On **Mothering Sunday**, **the** rules of fasting for **Lent** were relaxed. This meant that families could enjoy a special meal together.

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