

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 also 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. It was not unusual for children as young as ten to go out to work. This could have been as a servant in a large Manor House or as an 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 though, it became traditional for employees to be given time off by their employers, so they could worship at their home or 'Mother' church. This would have been the church where they were baptised as a child. Employees were allowed to travel home to attend their 'Mother' church and to visit 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 Mothering Sunday has continued, allowing children to spend the day making their mother feel special and loved.

Skimming and Scanning Challenge

1. The word 'Mothering' appears 6 times. Underline them all in red.
2. The word 'Sunday' appears 8 times. Underline them all in blue.
3. The word 'the' appears 14 times. Underline them all in green.
4. The word 'church' appears 6 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? ____
10. Highlight all of the commas in orange. How many are there? ____
11. Highlight all of the semi-colons in pink. How many are there? ____

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

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

fruit.	vegetables.	eggs.	seeds.
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12. Employees would be given time off by their:

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

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

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

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

the disciples.	footballs.	eggs.	stones.
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17. Many years ago, Mothering Sunday was about visiting your:

mother.	father.	'Mother' church.	friends.
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18. Mothering Sunday is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of:

Easter.	Lent.	Spring.	Winter.
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19. Lent is a time when Christians remember the 40 days and nights Jesus spent in:

prison.	Bethlehem.	the sea.	the desert.
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20. During Mothering Sunday, the rules of Lent were relaxed so families could enjoy:

time off.	a special meal.	a nice walk.	chatting.
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11. Highlight all of the semi-colons in pink. How many are there? 2

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

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