



MOTHER'S DAY

Lesson Ideas

These curriculum-linked lesson ideas and activity sheets offer a range of learning experiences for primary and middle years students to celebrate Mother's Day.

Broad learning outcomes

Using this curriculum material will assist students in achieving the following broad learning outcomes:

- Students will explore the roles that mothers (or other females) play within the family unit.
- Students will participate in celebrating their mother (or another special person) in their life.
- Students will learn about the origins of Mother's Day and how it is celebrated around the world.

English

- Students, working alone or in small groups, to explore how mothers are portrayed in picture books by completing the '**Alien Landing**' activity sheet. When complete, each student, or small group, to share their findings with the class then discuss:
 - Are there any common themes among the books?
 - Why do students think the authors have chosen to portray the characters this way?
 - Do students think there is anything wrong with any of the character portrayals?
 - Was there a large range of character portrayals or are common stereotypes reinforced among the books?
- Students to write a haiku poem about a special person in their life.
- Students to create a coupon book as a gift for their mother or special person. The coupons can be exchanged for services such as doing the dishes, washing the car, mowing the lawn etc. If they wish, students can use the coupon templates available with the activity sheets.
- Students to write a short story or picture book about their mothers or special person. Look at simple stories to gain inspiration and begin with a brainstorm of adjectives used to describe a loved person. The story/picture book must include text and pictures.
- Students to invent their own special day to celebrate something they love, e.g. dog day, football day, chocolate day etc. What date would the celebration be on and what could be done to celebrate?



MOTHER'S DAY

Mathematics

- Students to work in small groups to plan a stall which will sell gifts for Mother's Day. Students must calculate the required initial capital investment, advertising costs, prices for goods and expected profits.
- Students to be given a budget and then use supermarket catalogues to purchase goods to make a special meal to celebrate Mother's Day.
- Students to use tessellation to create a patchwork quilt pattern. The design could be used to make a Mother's Day card.
- Students to use beads to create a patterned necklace.

Science

- Students to research parents in the animal kingdom. How do the roles differ in different types of animals (i.e. mammals, monotremes etc.)? For mothers research how they give birth (i.e. eggs or live babies) and how they care for their young (*if at all*).
- Students to explore the nature of chemical reactions by making bath bombs to give as Mother's Day gifts. Instructions and an explanation of the reaction can be found with the activity sheets. This activity must be supervised by a responsible adult.

Humanities and Social Sciences

History

- Students to research the origin of Mother's Day. Write an explanation of how the celebration was started and how it may have changed over time. Present the findings using multimedia.
- Students to create a timeline of celebrations they have enjoyed with their family. Include photographs if they are available.
- Students to select one female, mother figure from their family (i.e. mother, grandmother, carer, aunt etc.) as the focus of a report. Interview the person and other family members to collect information for the report.
- Julia Ward Howe and Anna Jarvis are credited with creating Mother's Day. Research to find out more about these two women.



MOTHER'S DAY

Geography

- Students to research ways in which countries around the world celebrate Mother's Day.
- Students to investigate their family tree on their mother's side. On a map, mark the places where the people on the tree were born or lived.

Economics and Business

- Students to identify various selling and advertising techniques that are used to convince people to spend money around Mother's Day. Find examples of ads (print, radio, television or online) to demonstrate the techniques.

The Arts

- Students to make a gift box for their mother or special person. Instructions and a template can be found with the activity sheets.
- Students to follow the instructions on the '**Peek-a-Boo Card Instructions**' sheet to make a card for Mother's Day.
- Students to make a photograph collage (using photos of themselves) as a gift for a special person in their life.
- Students to make a bookmark using the '**Heart Bookmark**' sheet.
- Students to follow the instructions on the '**Quilling Card**' sheets to make an interesting card for Mother's Day.

Technologies

- Students to make a list of the tasks that their mother/carer does in a typical day, then design a robot that can do these tasks for them. Make a model of the robot. Students then discuss: "What can humans do that robots cannot?"



MOTHER'S DAY

Health and Physical Education

- Students to devise several options for healthy breakfasts that could be served on Mother's Day.
- Students to make a list of healthy and fun activities that families could do together to celebrate Mother's Day.

Languages

- Students to investigate the root of the word 'mother'.
- Students to research their own cultural background, write a poem about it then recite it to their mothers on Mother's Day.
- Students to learn how to say and write 'Happy Mother's Day' in different languages.