

# Happy Father's Day

In a small group, talk with your partners about the following questions.

When is Father's Day this year in your country?

What do you do to celebrate Father's Day?

What are popular presents for Father's Day?



## 1) A little Father's Day quiz.

a) The first official Father's Day was celebrated

in old Egypt.

on the 16th of June 1666.

on the 19th of June 1910.

on the same day all around the world.

b) On Father's Day, people in North America wear

red noses.

red or white roses.

different coloured socks.

red blinking plastic hearts.

c) Most fathers in Great Britain celebrate Father's Day with their

friends going fishing.

family at home.

colleagues at work.

friends and family on the beach.

d) The most popular present for Father's Day is

a tie.

a car wash.

a six-pack of beer.

a massage.

## 2) Who are these famous fathers?

a) Herodotus is also called

\_\_\_\_\_ Holy Father.

b) Albert Einstein is also called

\_\_\_\_\_ Father Time.

c) George Washington is also called

\_\_\_\_\_ the father of history.

d) In the Roman-Catholic Church God is also called

\_\_\_\_\_ the father of modern science.

e) Death is also called

\_\_\_\_\_ the father of the USA.

Do you know any other famous fathers?

## 3) Famous quotes on Father's Day.

Which of the words are missing? There are more words than you need.

*important – lived – mothers – sang – special – trees*

"Every man can be a father but only someone \_\_\_\_\_ can be a dad."

"My father didn't tell me how to live; he \_\_\_\_\_, and let me watch him live."

"Fathers, the same as \_\_\_\_\_, are not born. Men slowly grow to be fathers."

Which of the three is your favourite quote?

## Teacher's Notes

Introduce the topic by writing *Father's Day* on the board. Now divide your class into small groups and hand out copies to your students. Point out the introductory questions and ask your students to discuss their opinions in their groups. Stand by for clarifying vocabulary during the students' discussions. After some minutes, collect the students' ideas on the board.

Optionally write the questions on the board and ask your students to discuss the questions in their small groups before you hand out the copies.

- 1) Divide the class into pairs. Ask your students to look at the quiz and read the questions, then clarify vocabulary, e.g. *tie*, if necessary. Tell your students to do the quiz with their partners and compare the students' answers in open class after some minutes.

### Key:

- a) The first official Father's Day was celebrated  on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 1910.

The first artifact that could be considered having to do with Father's Day is an ancient Babylonian clay tablet on which a young Babylonian named Elmesu wished his father good health and a long life.

Father's Day, as we know it today, was first officially celebrated on June 19, 1910, in Spokane, Washington.

After listening to a church sermon at one of Spokane's churches in 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd felt that fatherhood needed recognition as well as motherhood. The following year on June 19, 1910, people went to church wearing roses: a red rose to honor a living father, and a white rose to honor a deceased one.

(Source: "Father's Day -- The un-Spokane history of Father's Day", *Daily American*, June 13, 2007)

- b) On Father's Day, people in North America wear  red or white roses. - See a).

- c) Most fathers in Great Britain celebrate Father's Day with their  family at home.

Although some might indeed prefer a quiet day fishing, most fathers in Great Britain celebrate Father's Day with their family at home.

- d) The most popular present for father's day is  a tie.

At least in the western world ties have been by far the most popular Father's Day present.

- 2) Explain to your students that in this exercise they are supposed to match the sentence halves. If necessary, explain the structure *is also called* with an example on the board. In their groups students do the exercise. Once a group is finished, ask them to look at and discuss the question below the matching exercise.

Compare answers in open class and collect additional ideas on the board. Depending on your students' level ask further questions about the famous fathers, e.g.

- Key:**
- a) Herodotus\* is also called the father of history.
  - b) Albert Einstein is also called the father of modern science.
  - c) George Washington is also called the father of the USA.
  - d) In the Roman-Catholic Church God is also called Holy Father.
  - e) Death (also: The Grim Reaper) is also called Father Time.

\* Note: Herodotus, an ancient Greek historian, lived in the 5th century BC. He is called the "Father of History" as he was the first historian known to systematically collect and verify his materials and arrange them in a well-constructed narrative.

- 3) Join two pairs to form a group of four students each, then explain the exercise to your students and clarify unknown vocabulary, e.g. *grow*, if necessary. Ask the students to first fill in the words individually and then compare them with their partners. Check the answers with the individual groups and then ask them to discuss which quote they like best. Compare in open class.

**Key:** Note: Below you will find the original quotes which have been adapted for lower levels.

"Any man can be a Father but it takes someone special to be a dad." — Anne Geddes

"Fathers, like mothers, are not born. Men grow into fathers. — David M. Gottesman

"My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it." — Clarence Budington Kelland