

**Father's Day**

# Aim

- To know the origins of Father's Day celebrations.

# How Did Father's Day Begin?

On 5<sup>th</sup> July 1908, a church in West Virginia sponsored the first event in honour of all fathers.

It was a Sunday sermon in memory of 362 men, who had sadly died the previous December in an explosion at the Fairmont Coal Company Mines in Monongah, USA.



# Sonora Smart Dodd

A year later, a young woman called Sonora Smart Dodd started a campaign to try to get an official day to honour all fathers up and running.



She was one of six children who had all been raised by their single father.

She went to churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and the government to try to get support.

She was successful.

# The First Official Father's Day



Sonora originally wanted the day to be celebrated on her father's birthday, which was the 5<sup>th</sup> June, but there wasn't time to organise it properly.

Instead, the 19<sup>th</sup> June 1910 was chosen.

Sonora spent the day delivering Father's Day gifts to all fathers in the city that were too ill to leave their homes.

# A Bit of a Joke



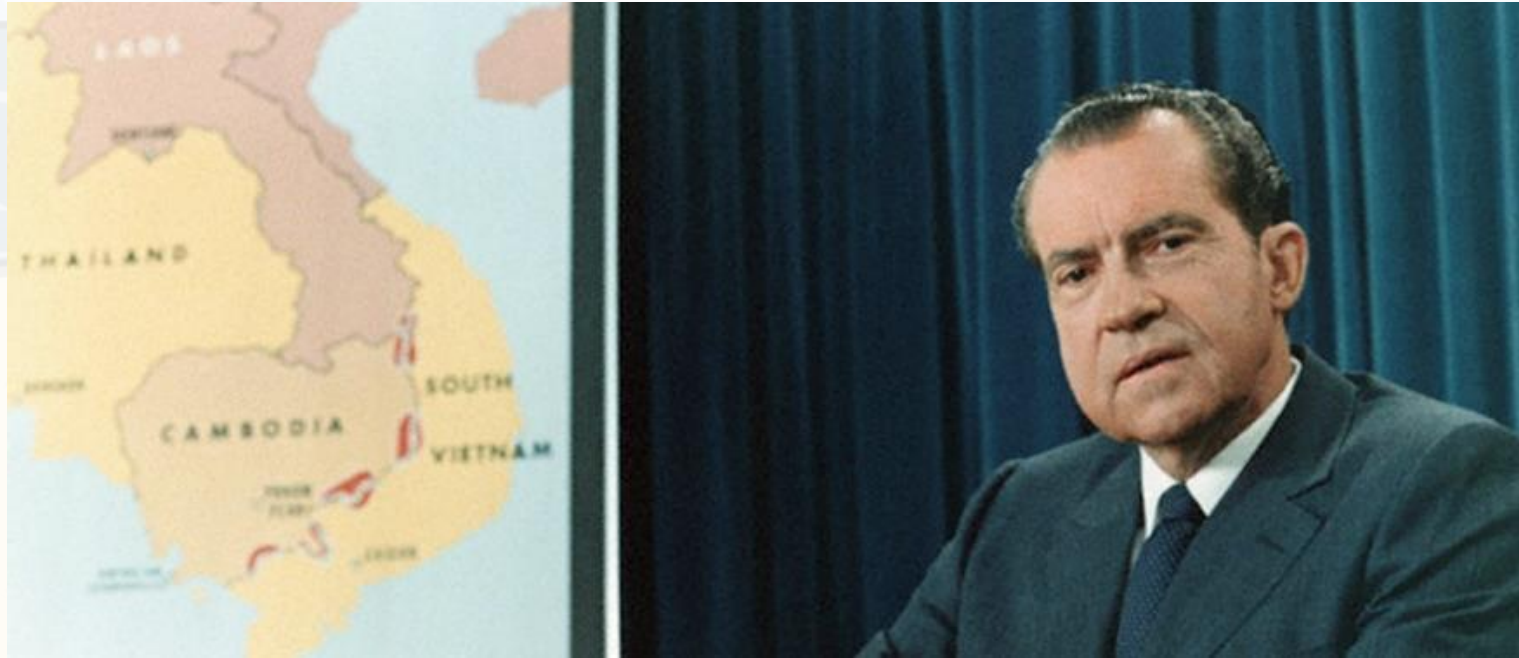
At first, Father's Day was not thought to be as important as Mother's Day, and was actually considered a bit of a joke. Some people saw it as just an excuse to sell things in shops.

Sonora was outraged and said:

"Either we honour both of our parents, mother and father, or let us desist from honouring either one. But to single out just one of our two parents and omit the other is the most grievous insult imaginable."



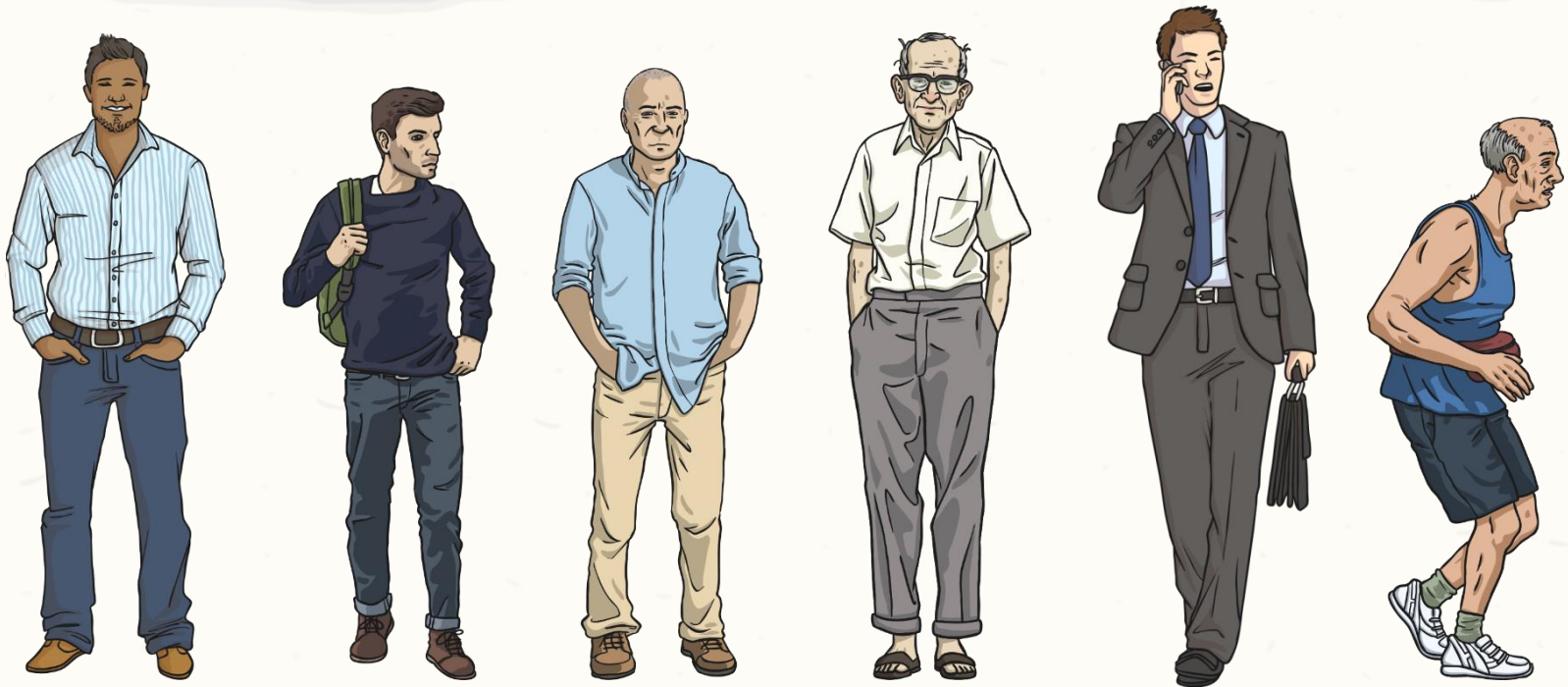
# Presidential Decision



Finally in 1972, President Richard Nixon made Father's Day an official national holiday and stated that it should be, 'an occasion for renewal of the love and gratitude we bear to our fathers.'

# Traditions

There are no set traditions on how people celebrate Father's Day but it is a great time to appreciate any man in your life that plays the role of a father. It may not be your actual father but instead a stepdad, a grandfather, an uncle or another member of the family, who has looked after you.





# What Will You Do?

Often, fathers are given the usual presents of socks, ties, sports and electronic equipment.



However, a homemade card or homemade present can be even more special. Another good option could be a breakfast in bed!



How will you celebrate the day?



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