

Fun Facts: Mother's Day – May 10

TEACHING GUIDE



About Fun Facts

Fun Facts are student-friendly handouts that tie statistics from the Census Bureau to holidays, anniversaries, and other observances. These fact sheets—which are designed to be used at varying grade levels and across different subjects—can be used at the end of class (if students finish their work early), during a lighter day (perhaps when a substitute teacher is present), or on/before a holiday (when there may be an opportunity for flexibility outside the curriculum).

Using Mother's Day Fun Facts in the Classroom

Teachers should give students time to read and digest the information in the *Mother's Day Fun Facts* handout. Below is a list of ideas for using the fact sheet with students at any and all grade levels:

Any Grade Level

Discussion: Potential discussion questions include:

- What information on this page interests you?
- What conclusions can you make about the information from one of the sections in the fun facts handout?

A Special Mother's Day Gift: Using the categories in the “Celebrating Mom With...” section of the fun facts handout, students could make a list of 5 specific items they think would be good gifts for mothers, and estimate the cost of each item. Older students could research prices from at least three popular online stores and then calculate the average cost of each item.

A Poem for Mom: Using the short poem from the Fun Facts handout, brainstorm other palindromes then use them to create a poem. Palindromes are words, numbers, phrases, or other sequence of characters that read the same backward or forward.

Elementary School Level

Bar Graph Practice: The class could work together to create a bar graph using data from the “Number of Children” section, which shows the percentage of children ever born by women aged 15 and over. Teachers could guide students with building their bar graph by instructing them to look at the largest number first, and then base their y-axis scale off that number.

A Card for Mom: The class could discuss the number of greeting card publishers from the “Celebrating Mom With...” section of the fun facts handout. Teachers could guide students in a brainstorming activity where they list the types of workers needed to make greeting cards, i.e., writers, editors, graphic artists, photographers, and printers, and their roles. Students could then pretend to be greeting card publishers and create a card for a special woman in their life.

Middle School Level

Advertisement: The first Mother’s Day was organized by Anna Jarvis on May 10, 1908, because it was such a success it later became a national holiday. Students could brainstorm a special day that they think should be a national holiday and develop an advertising campaign to promote it.

Furthering Your Education: The class could discuss the percentages in the “Schooling Mom” section and determine the level of education needed for a variety of occupations. Students could then develop an individual education plan in pursuit of their desired career choice. As an option, they could share their plans with the class.

High School Level

Discussion: Teachers could ask students to answer the following questions and then write a paragraph or participate in a class discussion using their responses: Are the statistics for the ages that women first give birth surprising to you? Do you think these ages will change by the time you graduate? What age group do you think will least likely change? What age group do you think will most likely change? Why?

Community Focus: Students could work in pairs to create a new business idea that would provide services to mothers in their community. Inspiration on the type of business could be drawn from the “Celebrating Mom With...” section of the fun facts handout, or they could come up with one of their own. Students could then use the Census Business Builder (Small Business Edition) tool to research and develop a mini business plan that includes demographic and socioeconomic information in support of their business idea. Access the Census Business Builder tool at: www.census.gov/data/data-tools/cbb.html.