

# Mummy!

Ancient Egyptians of long ago  
liked to look after their dead.  
They wrapped the body in bandages,  
from feet right to their head.

Before all this they had to hook  
the brain from up the nose.  
They bashed and whisked and stirred it  
into a goo that runs and flows.

They cut the body to get inside;  
to rip out liver and lung;  
the stomach, the guts; the nasty bits -  
in canopic jars they slung.

The heart they left: Egyptians thought  
the core of mind and soul.  
It stayed in there, the kidneys too,  
and washed the body whole.

It then was cleaned with wine and spice  
and stuffed to seem like real  
they dried it out with natron salt -  
that's not the end of the deal.

That's the time for bandages;  
wrapping the mummy up tight  
with amulets, gifts and goods,  
and jewels that sparkle bright.

The mummy was laid in a sarcophagus:  
a coffin that's rather grand,  
set for the afterlife; weighing the heart;  
they're judged for the promised land.

Met by Osiris, the underworld God,  
the heart was weighed for sin -  
the heavy ones were eaten up,  
but good ones made it in!



1. What verbs describe what the Egyptians did to the brain?

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2. Which parts of the body were left inside before the mummy was washed?

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3. 'A coffin that's rather grand'. What does 'grand' mean here?

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4. Look at the final line: 'but the good ones made it in!' What do you think this means?

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# World Book Day

World Book Day is an annual celebration. In the United Kingdom, World Book Day happens on the first Thursday of March. However, in other parts of the world, World Book Day always happens on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. 23<sup>rd</sup> April was chosen because it is the same date that many famous authors have died on.



World Book Day is a one-day charity event, on which everybody gets to focus on books, authors and reading. Every year, on World Book Day, each child in the UK is given a £1 voucher to spend on a book of their own. This is to encourage a love of reading from an early age.

## World Book Day Beginnings

The idea for World Book Day was originally thought up by an organisation called UNESCO. UNESCO are responsible for making sure that everyone around the world gets a chance to learn. In 1995, UNESCO created an annual celebration of reading and the very first World Book Day was held around the world in April of this year. It is now celebrated in around 100 different countries and, each year, UNESCO chooses a different city to be the centre of their World Book Day celebrations.

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### Did You Know?

- World Book Day is celebrated on a different date every year.
- Around 15 million book tokens are sent out each year in the UK, which can be swapped for a free £1 book in many bookshops.
- Many people dress up as their favourite storybook characters on World Book Day.



## The Importance of Reading

Reading is a vital skill and something you will need to be able to do for your whole life. Without being able to read, simple tasks, such as reading the ingredients to bake a cake or reading a letter about bills, become impossible.

Reading allows you to live your life however you choose to but learning to read is a luxury that some children are not lucky enough to experience. World Book Day can be a great chance to raise money for charities, such as Book Aid International, who work with children in less fortunate countries. They provide them with books and teach them to read in order to give them the best chance of success in the future.

1. On what date is World Book Day celebrated in other parts of the world? Tick one.

- ☐ the first Thursday of March
- ☐ in 1995
- ☐ 23<sup>rd</sup> April

2. Draw a line to complete the sentences.

The idea for World Book Day
World Book Day is
Every year, each child is given

a £1 voucher to spend on books.
a one-day charity event.
was thought up by UNESCO.

3. In around how many countries is World Book Day now celebrated? Tick one.

- ☐ 23
- ☐ 1995
- ☐ 100

4. Approximately how many book tokens are sent out each year to children in the UK? Tick one.

- ☐ 1 million
- ☐ 15 million
- ☐ 100 million

# Jimmy and the Pharaoh

Jimmy lay in his bed and closed his eyes. He was thinking about all the good things that happened on the school trip earlier that day. Mrs Richards had forced the class to wander around a boring old museum just because they were learning about the Ancient Egyptians. Everyone knew that visiting a museum was the worst kind of school trip teachers had ever invented, but luckily Jimmy had come prepared. He smiled as he thought about it. It wasn't the frog he'd let loose in the ladies' toilets that made him smile or when he'd let off a stink bomb during lunch – it wasn't even when he'd sneaked a fake poo into Alice Thornley's sandwich – no, it was what he'd 'borrowed' from the museum as a souvenir that Jimmy was so happy about.

Jimmy was too excited to sleep. He opened one eye and uncurled his fingers. Wow, he thought to himself, twiddling what looked like a model of a shiny beetle in his hand, Tutankhamun's lost heart scarab! He'd borrowed it when the boring old museum guide was droning on about the pharaoh's curse or something. It just kind of called out to him so he grabbed it when she wasn't looking. He kissed the scarab for good luck then tried to drift off to sleep. POOOOF!

Suddenly, out of thin air, a rather thin looking, half-naked man appeared, draped in expensive-looking jewellery. "Waaaagh!" the man squealed as he jumped in fright.

"Arrgghh!" Jimmy squealed back.

The strange man seemed confused and peered around Jimmy's bedroom. "Okaaaaay," he said, shrugging. "Wasn't expecting that."

Jimmy stared at the scarab then back at the man.

"Anyhoo, let's get on with this shall we?" the man said cheerfully before clearing his throat. "Ahem. Right then. Osiris! Great God of the Underworld!" he boomed. "I am Tutankhamun, King of Egypt, living image of Amun! Will you let me pass?"

Jimmy pulled the covers high over his nose. The man waited, arms stretched in the air. Then he smiled. That's when Jimmy lost it.

"Mummy!" he shrieked.



1. What did Jimmy do to Alice Thornley's sandwich?



2. '...it was what he'd 'borrowed' from the museum...' Why do you think the word borrowed is written in inverted commas in the story?



3. What do you think caused the strange man to appear?



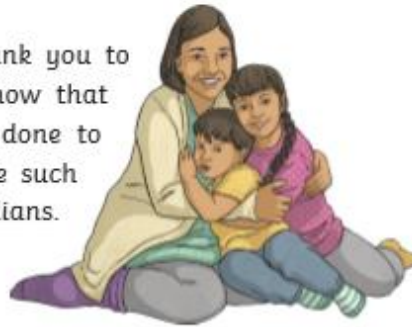
4. Write down how you think Jimmy was feeling at these points in the story:

- a) Finding out the school trip was a visit to a museum. \_\_\_\_\_
- b) When he let a frog loose in the ladies' toilets. \_\_\_\_\_
- c) When the strange man appeared out of thin air. \_\_\_\_\_

# Mother's Day

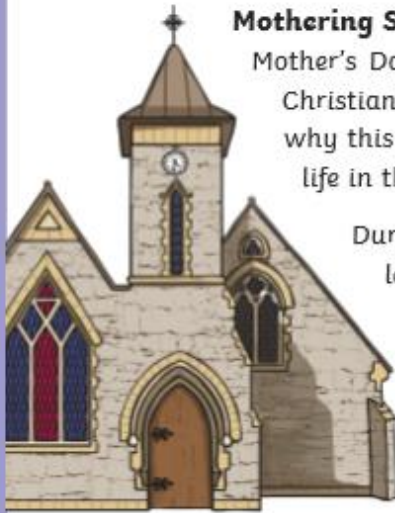
## What Is Mother's Day?

Mother's Day is a day for people to say thank you to their mothers and mother figures, and to show that they are grateful for everything they have done to help them. Mother figures can include people such as grandmas, aunties, sisters, carers or guardians.



## Mothering Sunday

Mother's Day, as we know it, is said to be based on the early Christian festival known as 'Mothering Sunday'. To understand why this was such an important day, we must look at family life in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.



During the 16<sup>th</sup> century, it was common for children to leave home around the age of ten years old. This was so that they could begin to earn a small amount of money to send home to their families. Many children worked as domestic servants. For girls, this meant becoming maids in big houses and for boys, this meant looking after horses in the stables. Domestic servants

lived in the same place that they worked and were not allowed to go home very often.



One day that domestic servants were allowed to go home was on the fourth Sunday of the season of Lent. On this special day, domestic servants were given the day off so that they could spend time with their families and visit their 'mother' church. This might have been the main church in their town or the church they had been baptised in. As they walked home, children would pick the wild flowers from the side of the path and give them to their mothers as a small gift.



### Mothering Sunday or Mother's Day?

As the years went by, this tradition continued and changed into what was known as Mothering Sunday. In the early 1900s, shopkeepers around the country had begun to realise how popular Mothering Sunday had become. They saw a chance to make some money. They began to sell cards and gifts at this time of year and advertised the day as 'Mother's Day'.

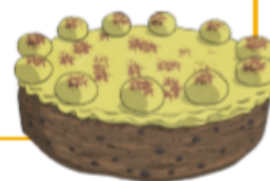


Over time, the wild flowers picked by children were replaced by shop-bought gifts and cards, and the fourth Sunday in the season of Lent continued to be a special day for families to spend time together. People in the UK and Ireland started to celebrate 'Mother's Day' on the same day that Mothering Sunday had been celebrated. The two celebrations have now been mixed up and many people think that they are the same thing.

### Many Names for Mother's Day

Just as it is often known as both Mothering Sunday and Mother's Day, the fourth Sunday in the season of Lent also has many other names. Some of these names include:

- Refreshment Sunday;
- Mid-Lent Sunday;
- Rose Sunday;
- Pudding Pie Sunday (in the county of Surrey);
- Simnel Sunday.



# Questions

1. What is the name of the early Christian festival that Mother's Day is said to be based on? Tick one.

- ☐ Lent
- ☐ Mothering Sunday
- ☐ Easter Sunday
- ☐ Epiphany

2. Draw a line to match the person to the fact about them.

Domestic servants	recognised how popular Mothering Sunday had become
Mothers	were rarely allowed to go home.
Shopkeepers	are celebrated and thanked on Mother's Day.

3. Which role would female domestic servants take? Tick one.

- ☐ looking after horses
- ☐ washing cars
- ☐ being a maid
- ☐ reading and writing

4. Which of these is another name for the fourth Sunday in Lent? Tick one.

- ☐ Rose Sunday
- ☐ Floral Sunday
- ☐ Flowering Sunday
- ☐ Blossom Sunday

5. What role would male domestic servants take?

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6. In which part of the country might people call the fourth Sunday of Lent 'Pudding Pie Sunday'?

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## Caesar's Calendar Conundrum

9 The Julian calendar, created by Julius Caesar in 46BC,  
18 was a correction of the Roman calendar - a complicated  
29 lunar calendar based on the phases of the moon. It needed  
39 a group of scholars to regularly meet and decide when  
50 days should be added or removed to keep the calendar in  
60 line with the seasons. In order to create a standardised  
67 calendar, Caesar worked with an astronomer named  
75 Sosigene, and together they made a solar calendar  
84 based entirely on the Earth's journey around the sun.  
95 This calendar had a regular year of 365 days, split into  
105 twelve months, with a leap year added to February every  
116 fourth year. At the time, February was the last month of  
125 the year. However, the Julian calendar was replaced by  
130 the Gregorian calendar in 1582.



## Quick Questions



1. Which calendar was based on the moon?

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2. Recap the main points of this text in 20 words or less.

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3. Why do you think that the Julian calendar was replaced?

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4. How does the Julian calendar compare to the calendar we use today? Explain your answer.

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## The Captivating Colosseum

- 8 The Colosseum, also known as the Flavian Amphitheatre, is an oval-shaped amphitheatre in the centre of Rome – the capital city of Italy. Built from concrete and sand, its construction began in 72AD under the emperor Vespasian and it was completed eight years later. Despite its age, it still remains the largest amphitheatre ever built.
- 64 It is estimated that the Colosseum could hold up to 80,000 spectators and was used daily as a place for entertainment such as gladiator contests, animal hunts, re-enactments of famous battles and dramas based on ancient myths.
- 99 Although damaged by earthquakes and theft of stone, the Colosseum is still a popular tourist attraction and an iconic symbol of Imperial Rome.



## Quick Questions



1. In which year was the building of the Colosseum completed?

\_\_\_\_\_



2. What does the word 'estimated' tell you about the amount of people that the Colosseum can hold?

\_\_\_\_\_



3. How does the entertainment at the Colosseum compare to modern-day entertainment?

\_\_\_\_\_



4. Summarise what you have read in 20 words or less.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Unusual Olympic Sports

9 Throughout its history, the Olympic Games have held a  
18 range of strange and unusual competitions that we no  
23 longer take part in today.

34 **Rope Climb:** Stopped in 1932, this was an event in which  
45 competitors had to climb up a rope as quickly and as  
53 stylishly as possible. The most impressive winner was  
63 George Eyser in 1904, who won gold despite having a  
65 wooden leg!

75 **Tug of War:** At every Olympic Games until 1920, teams  
86 of eight men would have to pull their opponents six feet  
97 over a line on the floor. The British team, containing lots  
106 of police officers, were very good at this event.

114 **Swimming Obstacle Race:** This event only happened in  
124 the 1900 Olympics. Swimmers had to climb over a pole  
134 and a row of boats, before swimming under another row  
140 of boats towards the finish line.



# Quick Questions



1. Find and copy two adverbs which describe how competitors had to climb up the rope.



2. In what year did the only Swimming Obstacle Race take place?



3. Why was George Eyser's gold medal win the 'most impressive'? Explain your answer.



4. How do these sports compare to Olympic events we see today?

## Spotting a Tsunami

8 Before a tsunami strikes, eagle-eyed scientists can spot  
19 a few warning signs which may help to save lives. An  
28 earthquake can be a warning of a tsunami; tsunamis  
39 can cause the ground near the coast to shake for more  
50 than twenty seconds at a time and may cause the ocean  
60 to pull backwards, leaving bare sand where the sea used  
71 to be. There may also be loud, booming noises with no  
81 apparent cause. However, it is not just humans who can  
92 take notice of these warning signs. Around the time that a  
102 tsunami is about to strike, animals can be seen behaving  
109 strangely or beginning to leave the area.

119 If any of these signs are spotted, you must immediately  
129 move away from coastal areas. Make your way to higher  
138 ground as quickly as you can – do not stop.



## Quick Questions



1. Find and copy two ways that the author tells the reader to act quickly if they spot a tsunami.

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•



2. What are two warning signs that a tsunami could be about to strike?

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•



3. Why might someone be tempted to stop on their way to higher ground?



4. Who do you think that this information is for? Explain your answer.

## Amazing Facts about the Human Body

- 8 • Your heart beats around one hundred thousand times per day. This means that in one year it has pumped around three million litres of blood around your body.
- 35 • Your nose can tell the difference between one trillion different smells.
- 49 • The acid inside your stomach that helps you to digest food can actually dissolve metal.
- 60 • The smallest bone in the human body can be found inside the ear. It is called the stapes (or stirrup) bone and it is only around three millimetres long.
- 88 • Your nose and ears continue growing throughout your entire life.
- 98 • As well as having unique finger prints, all humans also have unique tongue prints!



## Quick Questions



1. What do you think the word 'unique' means?

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2. What are the two names for the smallest bone in the human body?

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3. Give one reason why the author may have chosen to use bullet points to present this information.

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4. Why do you think the author chose these particular facts?

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