

**Topic: Holidays and Traditions – Father’s Day**

**Let’s get started...** Father’s Day is a special time to honor the positive contributions to our lives from all fathers and dads.

“Any man can be a Father, but it takes a special person to be called Dad.”

What do you think this quote means? (How are the words “father” and “dad” different?)

**Background:**

In the United States, a special day to honor fathers was first organized in Spokane, Washington, in 1910. A woman who had been raised by her father after her mother died when she was very young, was listening to a speech on Mother’s Day, and wanted to honor her father who had raised his 6 children alone. She held the first Father’s Day in 1910, on his birthday, June 19, because she thought that her father and all good fathers should be honored with a special day, just like we honor our mothers on Mother’s Day. In 1956, the U.S. Congress voted to recognize Father’s Day as a national holiday, but it wasn’t until 1966 that President Johnson proclaimed Father’s Day to be an official national holiday, and in 1972, President Nixon signed into law a permanent U.S. Father’s Day, to be observed on the third Sunday in June each year.



**In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer these questions:**

In your native country, do you have a special day to honor fathers? If yes, when is the day? How do you celebrate? Do you wear special clothes or eat special foods? Do you give gifts, cards, or prepare a special dinner or family party? Are there any traditional gifts for fathers?

In your native country, do you honor other male relatives on this day (example: grandfathers, uncles, fathers-in-law)? If yes, how do you honor these relatives? Do you give gifts or cards, or prepare a special dinner or family party?

Do you celebrate Father’s Day? How is your native country’s celebration the same as, or different from, the way you celebrate in the United States?

**Share your partner’s answers with the group.**

**Discussion Questions:**

What advice did your father give you that you remember? Why do you remember?

What is something your father told you that you disagreed with? Why did you disagree?

What is your father's favorite hobby? Does he still practice this hobby?

What was your father's favorite subject in school? Why did he like this subject?

What is/was your father's occupation? What does/did he like best about his occupation?

What is your father's favorite color? How do you know this is his favorite color?

What is your father's favorite type of transportation (make of car, bicycle, walking)?

What values were important to your father? How did he let you know about his values?

To you, what is a "good father"? What characteristics are important?

When you were a child, what activities did your father do with you? Did he read to you? Did he play board games or card games with you? Did he play sports with you?

Did your father have brothers and sisters? Tell about his relationship with his family, his parents (your grandparents), his brothers and sisters (your aunts and uncles)? Were they a close family? Did they spend holidays together?

Did your father have any pets when he was young? If yes, what was his favorite pet? Tell any stories about his pet that he may have told you.

When you were a child, did your father enjoy having people come to your home to visit? Tell about some of his friends and their activities.

Did your father have any favorite books, stories, or songs that he told you about? Tell about a story your father told you or a song he sang for you.

Which traditions of your father do you, or will you, continue with your children?

What was your father's attitude about money? Was he careful with money, saving for the future and for emergencies, or did he prefer to spend and enjoy money? Tell about what you learned about money from your father.

**New words and Idioms:** quote; celebrate, celebration, special; activities; characteristics; hobby; appreciate; advice; favorite; (school) subject; honor; establish; family traditions; occupation; chip off the old block; like father like son;