

Celebrate Mother's Day

Little known facts about Motherhood

Youngest Mother
The youngest mother whose history is authenticated is Lina Medina, who delivered a 6.5-pound boy by cesarean section in Lima, Peru in 1939, at an age of five years and seven months. The child was raised as her brother and only discovered that Lina was his mother when he was 10.

Oldest Mother
On April 9, 2003, Satyabhama Mahapatra, a 65-year-old retired school-teacher in India, became the world's oldest mother when she gave birth to a baby boy. Satyabhama and her husband had been married 50 years, but this is their first child. The baby was conceived through artificial insemination.

Most Surviving Children
Bobbie McCaughey is the mother who holds the record for the most surviving children from a single birth. She gave birth to the first set of surviving septuplets – four boys and three girls – on November 19, 1997, at the University Hospital, Iowa, US. Conceived by in vitro fertilization, the babies were delivered after 31 weeks by cesarean in the space of 16 minutes.

Shortest Interval Between Two Children
Jayne Bleackley is the mother who holds the record for the shortest interval between two children born in separate confinements. She gave

birth to Joseph Robert on September 3, 1999, and Annie Jessica Joyce on March 30, 2000. The babies were born 208 days apart.

Longest Interval Between Two Children
Elizabeth Ann Buttle is the mother who holds the record for the longest interval between the birth of two children. She gave birth to Belinda on May 19, 1956 and Joseph on November 20, 1997. The babies were born 41 years 185 days apart. The mother was 60 years old when her son Joseph was born.

Highest Recorded Number of Children
The highest officially recorded number of children born to one mother is 69, to the first wife of Feodor Vassilyev (1707-1782) of Shuya, Russia. Between 1725 and 1765, in a total of 27 confinements, she gave birth to 16 pairs of twins, seven sets of triplets, and four sets of quadruplets. 67 of them survived infancy.

Highest Number of Children in Modern Times
The modern world record for giving birth is held by Leontina Albina from San Antonio, Chile. Leontina claims to be the mother of 64 children, of which only 55 of them are documented. She is listed in the 1999 Guinness World Records but dropped from later editions.

On Women and Motherhood
•24.8 is the median age of women when they give birth for the first time - meaning one-half are above this age and one-half are below. The median age has risen nearly three years since 1970.

•A woman becomes pregnant most easily at the age of eighteen or nineteen, with little real change until the mid twenties. There is then a slow decline to age thirty-five, a sharper decline to age forty-five and a very rapid decline as the women nears menopause.

•The odds of a woman delivering twins is 1-in-33. Her odds of having triplets or other multiple births was approximately 1-in-539.

•August is the most popular month in which to have a baby, with more than 360,000 births taking place that month in 2001.

•Tuesday is the most popular day of the week in which to have a baby, with an average of more than 12,000 births taking place on Tuesdays during 2001.

Great Ways to Say Thank You on Mother's Day

This is the month to honor the special woman in your life. The one who sacrificed for your benefit. The unsung heroine of the world ... Mom.

Breakfast in bed has been done. She's probably gotten her share of blouses or floral bouquets. This year you may want to do something different. But what will that be?

Consider these ideas to say thank you to your mother, stepmother, aunt, mentor, or any other woman you'd like to recognize this holiday.

Just make sure Mom has her passport or other necessary travel documents and you're set.

- Catch a concert: You may or may not have the same taste in music as your mother, but surprising her with concert tickets can be an ideal way to show you care about her hobbies and interests. Many bands and singers that experienced their heyday when Mom was spinning her vinyl records or popping a tape in the cassette deck are still pumping out hits today. And chances are they're performing at venues around the country, too. Maybe she likes the adult-contemporary sounds of Michael Buble. Or she's a country gal interested in seeing Brad Paisley. Mom may love the hard rock of the 1980s, and scoring tickets to a Bon Jovi concert will knock her socks off.

stage shows. If you want to seek out the bright lights of Broadway, shows Mom may enjoy include "Wicked," "Come Fly Away," the enduring "Phantom of the Opera," or "South Pacific." Just be sure to book early if you desire weekend tickets. They tend to go fast.

- Girls' day out: Maybe Mom just desires spending a day out with her friends, other female companions or you. Give her a gift certificate to a favorite restaurant and allow her to enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner.

- Spa retreat: What woman doesn't enjoy a little pampering from time to time? Investigate the spas and salons in your area. Many full-service spas have treatments ranging from facials to hour-long body massages. They may even offer packages that enable you to group services together, allowing Mom to start her day with a relaxing massage and finish up with a new haircut and style.

- Dream vacation: Is there a place Mom has always wanted to visit? Maybe finances were tight and she put her needs aside for a family trip instead? Giving back may mean giving her a special time away. Cruise ships and all-inclusive resorts offer a host of activities all for one price. This could be an option for gifters looking to book a vacation that does not require a lot of itinerary planning or coordination.

What the famous have to say about Mothers

"The sweetest sounds to mortals given Are heard in Mother, Home, and Heaven."
William Goldsmith Brown

"The moment a child is born, the mother is also born. She never existed before. The woman existed, but the mother, never. A mother is something absolutely new."
Rajneesh

"If I had a single flower for every time I think about you, I could walk forever in my garden."
Attributed to Claudia Ghandi

"A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie."
Tenneva Jordan

"If the whole world were put into one scale, and my mother in the other, the whole world would kick the beam."
Lord Langdale (Henry Bickersteth)

"Mother love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible."
Marion C. Garretty

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