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Honoring some amazing moms

The second Sunday in May is known as Mother's Day. It is a day that is set aside to honor mothers. Throughout history there have been outstanding achievements made by women who, in addition to being a wife and mother, impacted the world.

Nancy Edison

"My mother was the making of me. She was so true, so sure of me; and I felt I had something to live for, someone I must not disappoint," said Thomas Alva Edison. He was the youngest of seven children and suffered from a learning disability. In the 1800s, there was not a lot of information about learning disabilities or how to help people who had them. Instead of giving up hope that her son would ever be able to learn, Nancy Edison took matters into her own hands. She home-schooled the young boy who would later go on to invent life changing inventions, like the light bulb.



Julie Andrews

Being an actress is a time consuming job; it's often sporadic and crazy. That did not stop Julie Andrews from being a hands on mom, "always there making eggs at five o'clock in



the morning before we went to school," her daughter, Emma Walton Hamilton, told Today. They also write the book series *The Very Fair Princess* together.

Lou Xiaoying

The 1970s were a hard time for China, especially for the poorer more rural areas. Lou Xiaoying supported herself by picking through the things other people had thrown out. One of the things that she always took in was babies. The Cultural Revolution and China's one-child policy lead to parents abandon unwanted babies. "These children need love and care. They are all precious human lives," she said. She recused or adopted 30 babies in addition to having a daughter of her own.



Sojourner Truth

In the 1800s, Sojourner Truth may have been the only black woman to sue a white man and win. Truth and her daughter fled slavery in 1826. After her escape, she heard that her son had been



illegally sold. She filed a complaint in court and won her son's freedom.

Mother Teresa

In 1950, Mary Teresa Bojaxhiu created the Missionaries of Charity. She said it was to care for, "the hungry, the homeless, the crippled, the blind, the lepers, all those people who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared for throughout society. People that have become a burden to the society and are shunned by everyone. Though she was a nun and did not have any children of her own; the maternal message of love and care that was spread throughout her life and organizations gained her the nickname, "Mother Teresa"



What makes a mother a mother? Unconditional support like Edison, dedication to carving out time like Andrews, selflessness like Xiaoying, bravery like Sojourner, and love like Mother Teresa. Without moms we would not have light; both literally and figuratively. Thank a mom this Mother's Day for everything that they do.

Fun facts

- Nintendo, the video game maker, only made playing cards when it first started.
- Shakespeare made up more than 400 words in his plays. Some of them we still use regularly, like "dawn," "glow," and "unreal."
- Armadillos give birth in litters of four, either all boys or all girls. There's never a mix.
- The first moving picture was created to settle a bet over whether all four of a horse's hooves left the ground at the same time.

Give your mom a love-filled family tree

Mother's Day gifts were always the hardest to pick out for my sister and I. What do you get someone who deserves the world when all you can afford is a scented candle? The answer we came up with was a handmade crafts.

Because it's a gift for your mom, it needs to be something she does not need to help you with. A simple craft idea is a tree made of hearts; "everyday the love I have for you grows," or another growing pun.

What you'll need:

- Brown construction paper
- Blue construction paper
- Green construction paper

Pink or red construction paper

Kid friendly scissors (or a non-mom adult to help cut things out)

Glue

Colored pencils

Trace your hand from just below the wrist on brown construction paper. Carefully cut it out and glue it onto the blue paper. Cut a strip of the green paper and glue it along the bottom to be grass. Cut the red or pink paper into about one and a half inch strips. Fold them into a heart and glue the ends together. When they've dried glue them onto the brown tree. After you've filled your tree with as many hearts as you want you can use the colored pencils to decorate. Add a sun, blades of grass, inspirational quote about moms, a stick figure family, anything you think the perfect present needs.



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