

25th June

Memory verse

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. Genesis 8:22

By now you have learned techniques for writing your memory verses in all sorts of ways: everything from sign language to mirror writing so test yourself today and tomorrow and do some of your old memory verses in different ways.

Map Work

Do you remember how Drake wanted to find a way through a North West Passage back home to England but was stopped by the terrible cold? We read about his incredible journey on 17th June. Drake was not the only explorer convinced that there was a North West Passage.

On 25th June 1776 Captain James Cook set out from Plymouth on his last voyage. Chart his journey on the outline map in the Optional resources file by looking up the places in green in your Atlas. If you cannot print the map you can draw it out using the squares provided. Like others before him, Cook went in search of a north-west passage, a way across the top of the world to join the Atlantic to the Pacific. He sailed with the ships *Resolution* and *Discovery* under his command, first to the Cape of Good Hope, and then by way of Tahiti to the American coast. On the way he discovered the largest group of islands in the Pacific, the Hawaiian Islands. They had, in fact, been found once before by a Spanish explorer but their whereabouts had been forgotten.



Cook then followed the coast northwards and sailed through the Bering Straits until his passage was stopped by a wall of ice at latitude 70 degrees North and he was forced to turn back, sailing down the coast of Siberia as far as the Kamchatka peninsula (pictured on the left) before returning to Hawaii by way of the Aleutian Islands.

In Hawaii he ran into trouble with the Hawaiians who had previously been friendly and he was killed in a battle between his men and the islanders. Captain Cook had made his last voyage.¹

The North West passage does exist although it was not discovered until much later and that is another story for another day. Until recently it was useless for shipping because of the levels of ice that made it impassable – as Captain Cook found. With the warming in climate we are experiencing at the moment, however, that has been changing and some cargo vessels have actually made use of it as ice levels have moderated. This has led to some tension in the region over the question as to whether the passage is in Canadian territorial waters or not. It is an open question whether the North West Passage will become a regular trade route or not. Certainly more port infrastructure (basic systems and services) will be needed if this is to happen. At the moment there is not sufficient infrastructure in the region.²

Something to do – have a special meal in honour of – Fork Day!

In the sixteenth century in Britain and in Europe people mostly ate their food with their fingers, sometimes cutting it up with a knife first. In the seventeenth century things began to change. It was noticed that fingers were not always clean (!) and, among better off people in Europe, small forks

¹ Adapted from Owen, Evan, *What Happened Today* Volume 2, available on the *Mothers' Companion* Flashdrive. <https://motherscompanion.weebly.com>.

² Older children might like to read about climate here: <https://creation.com/global-warming-and-climate-change-recent-developments>.

were introduced to make handling food with fingers less necessary. The first forks were very small and had just two prongs. These were followed by forks that were a little larger with three prongs. Four pronged forks like the ones we use today, shaped for scooping as well as spearing food, followed later. Forks were considered mostly a ladies' utensil, however, and men were often ashamed to use them. At this time, sharp knives were banned from the dinner table in polite society in France – presumably because drunken guests might be tempted to misuse them if a quarrel broke out. This in turn meant that forks became more popular. Previously people had been in the habit of spearing their food on the sharp point of their knife. Gradually, it became considered rather rude to put your knife into your mouth.

On **June 25** 1630, Governor Winthrop of Massachusetts introduced the first fork into colonial America. His fellow colonists did not take up the idea very readily, however, and still carried on using wooden spoons along with knives and fingers. The Americans were just ahead of the English, though, for although forks seem to have arrived at English tables along with Henrietta Maria, Charles I's French queen, it was not until three years later (1633) that Charles I declared, "it is decent to use a fork."



Little ones will enjoy learning how to set the table properly and might like to set out a small table for dolls, teddies or other toys to have a "party". The Optional Resources files for today include some pages on table manners (suitable for slightly older children) taken from *Etiquette* by Helene Hoke³ which will enable you to turn tonight's family meal into a formal dinner if you think it would be fun! Add a fancy table cloth, some napkins and some flowers (or even nicely arranged leaves and grasses) from the garden or roadside verge. It does not matter

what you actually have to eat, you can still make it an occasion.

Something to read aloud

Thomas Hood's Poem "Monkey Manners" is included in the Optional Resources files for today. It is a good poem to read aloud, especially if you can do it with a very innocent expression! Be sure to read it clearly and without stopping at the end every line. Remember that poetry always sounds best if you read it as if it is prose and follow the natural punctuation. If you began a poetry memorisation programme on 5th January (if not look at that lesson and begin one now) you could include it.

A game to play

You really need two teams for this but you could play it one at a time too if you set the time carefully. You need some outdoor clothes including gloves, a plate, a knife and fork, a stop watch or timer of some sort and a bar or bars of chocolate. The competitors must put on the clothes provided, sit down on a chair at the table and eat as much of the bar of chocolate as they can **using only the knife and fork provided** within a set time – say one minute. The time can be varied at the discretion of the organiser depending on the age of competitors etc. The winner is the person/team who has consumed the most chocolate within the time allowed.

A story from history⁴

Edward V: the boy king in the tower

From 1455 England was involved in a bitter struggle, the Wars of the Roses. The two sides, York and Lancaster, were at constant war until 1461 when Edward of York defeated the Lancastrians.

We read yesterday about William Caxton setting up his printing press in 1477 in the precincts of

³ Available complete on the *Mothers' Companion* Flashdrive. <https://motherscompanion.weebly.com>.

⁴ Adapted from *The Story of God's Dealings with our Nation* Volume 2 which is available here: <https://www.creationresearchstore.com/s/search?q=The%20Story%20of%20Gods%20Dealings%20with%20our%20Nation>.

Westminster Abbey. Edward IV was a patron of Caxton's work.



When Edward IV died in 1483, his son Edward V was only twelve years old. Because Edward IV had favoured and promoted the Woodvilles, his wife's family, they were unpopular with the nobles and the people. Richard Duke of Gloucester, the brother of King Edward IV took the young Edward V away from the care of his mother's family. He put him in the Tower of London together with his younger brother. He then declared that Edward IV had never



been properly married to Elizabeth Woodville. He had himself declared King Richard III on 25th June 1483. The two princes in the tower were murdered on Richard's orders.

Richard's action in having his nephews murdered shocked even those who had taken part in the violence of the Wars of the Roses. Richard III was very unpopular, in fact it seemed that everyone was against him. Henry Tudor, the only Lancastrian left with a claim to the throne, was in Brittany.

When he began to send over his friends to organize an uprising against Richard III, people who had been Yorkist supporters went over to Henry Tudor even though he was a Lancastrian.



The men of West Wales wanted a king of their own blood. Henry Tudor had Welsh blood in his veins. He therefore decided to begin his return to power in England by landing with his troops at Milford Haven in Wales where he could count on support. Accompanied by a Welsh army, and joined by English nobles when he reached Shrewsbury, he marched on Richard and defeated him at the Battle of Bosworth. Richard III was killed in the battle.⁵ Richard's crown was found on the battlefield after the battle, hanging from a thorn bush. It was put on Henry Tudor's head and he became Henry VII.

5 His body was discovered in 2012, buried under a car park in Leicester which long ago had been the site of a priory.