

History of Valentine's Day

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VALENTINE'S DAY, celebrated annually on February 14th, has its origins in both ancient ROMAN and CHRISTIAN traditions. The holiday's connection to love is believed to have evolved from the Roman festival of LUPERCALIA, which was held in mid-February. This festival, a celebration of FERTILITY and the coming of spring, involved various rituals, including the pairing of young men and women through a LOTTERY system. While Lupercalia was eventually banned by the Christian church in the 5th century, some of its customs influenced the celebration of Valentine's Day.

Spell: ORIGIN ANCIENT FESTIVAL

What holiday are we discussing today? VALENTINES DAY

When is Valentine's day celebrated? FEBRUARY 14

Valentine's Day has origins from what kind of traditions? ROMAN, CHRISTIAN

Question Type Key

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What festival did Valentine's day evolve from? LUPERCALIA

What did Lupercalia celebrate? FERTILITY, COMING OF SPRING

What kind of system were men and women paired through? LOTTERY

Who banned Lupercalia? CHRISTIAN CHURCH

In what century was it banned? 5TH CENTURY



The association of Valentine's Day with romantic love is often credited to GEOFFREY CHAUCE, a 14th-century English poet. In his poem "PARLIAMENT OF FOULES" Chaucer writes about birds choosing their mates on Saint Valentine's Day. This idea caught on in EUROPE and began to evolve over time, with the day becoming more closely associated with expressing love between couples. By the 15th century, people started sending handwritten love notes, known as "valentines," to their admirers, a practice that would continue to grow.

Spell: MATES COUPLE HANDWRITTEN

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Who is credited with associating Valentine's Day with romantic love?
GEOFFREY CHAUCE

What was Geoffrey's profession? POET

What's the name of the poem he wrote? PARLIAMENT OF FOULES

Where did the idea of choosing mates first catch on in? EUROPE

Name a country in Europe. GERMANY, ITALY, SPAIN, FRANCE, UK,
IRELAND, ETC

What did people start sending in the 15th century? HANDWRITTEN LOVE
NOTES, VALENTINES

If you were to write a valentine to someone, what would it say?



The day became more widespread in the 18th and 19th centuries, especially in ENGLAND and AMERICA. During this period, the exchange of Valentine's cards became more popular, and it is during this time that mass-produced cards began to be sold. The INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

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played a significant role in this, as the invention of the PRINTING PRESS allowed for the creation of inexpensive cards that could be easily distributed. The first mass-produced Valentine's card was created in the early 1800s, and it wasn't long before sending cards to express affection became an established tradition.

Spell: CARD TRADITION INVENTION

In what centuries did Valentine's day become more widespread? 18TH CENTURY, 19TH CENTURY

Where did Valentine's Day become more widespread? ENGLAND, AMERICA

What played a significant role in cards being mass produced? THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

What was invented during this time? PRINTING PRESS

In what time period were Valentine's cards first mass-produced? 1800s

Tell me what you know about the Industrial Revolution.



In the United States, the celebration of Valentine's Day became even more ingrained in society during the 20th century. Greeting card companies, such as HALLMARK, capitalized on the holiday's popularity, making it an essential occasion for exchanging cards, flowers, and gifts. The

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COMMERCIALIZATION of Valentine's Day expanded its appeal beyond just romantic couples to include friends and family members as well. Today, people of all ages exchange tokens of affection, from simple cards to extravagant gifts.

Spell: SOCIETY MEMBER TOKENS

When did Valentine's Day become more ingrained in the US? 20TH CENTURY

What greeting card company capitalized on Valentine's Day's popularity? HALLMARK

What's one thing that's typically exchanged on Valentine's Day? FLOWERS, CARDS, GIFTS

What's another Valentine's Day tradition?

What's another holiday celebrated in the United States? INDEPENDENCE DAY, MLK, PRESIDENTS' DAY, LABOR DAY, ETC



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Modern Valentine's Day traditions vary around the world but share common themes of love and appreciation. In the U.S., it's customary to exchange Valentine's cards, flowers (especially roses), chocolates, and sometimes gifts like jewelry or stuffed animals. Many couples go out for dinner or enjoy a special date together. Schools often participate by allowing students to exchange cards with classmates, and in some places, children may decorate boxes to collect their valentines. This day of celebration is not just for couples; many people use it as an opportunity to express love and appreciation to friends and family as well.

Spell: MODERN DECORATE FAMILY

What's one common theme of Valentine's Day? LOVE, APPRECIATION

What kind of flower is typically exchanged? ROSES

Name another type of flower. TULIPS, DAISIES, SUNFLOWERS, LILIES, ORCHID, ETC

Tell me one kind of gift I mentioned that could be exchanged. JEWELRY, STUFFED ANIMALS

Tell me a gift that could be exchanged that I didn't mention.

What kind of gift would you want to receive? Why?

While Valentine's Day is primarily associated with romantic relationships, its meaning has broadened over time. In some countries, it has become a celebration of friendship, self-love, and kindness. In FINLAND, for example, Valentine's Day is called "Ystävänpäivä (uus tah van pai vah)" or "Friend's Day," and focuses on the importance of friendship. In JAPAN, Valentine's Day has a unique twist where women give chocolates to men, and men are

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expected to return the gesture on WHITE DAY, which is celebrated on March 14th.

Spell: FRIENDSHIP KINDNESS CHOCOLATE

What is Valentine's Day primarily associated with? ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS

Where in the world is Ystävänäpäivä celebrated? FINLAND

What does Ystävänäpäivä celebrate? FRIENDSHIP, IMPORTANCE OF FRIENDSHIP

Who gives chocolate on Valentine's Day in Japan? WOMEN

Who do they give the chocolates to? MEN

When do men return the gesture? MARCH 14, WHITE DAY

What continent is Japan located in? ASIA

Valentine's Day has also been shaped by popular culture, with movies, songs, and advertisements all contributing to its current image as a celebration of love and affection. The holiday is frequently depicted in films and media, often reinforcing the idea that it's a day for grand romantic gestures. However, as society changes, so too does the way Valentine's Day is celebrated. While traditional gestures like giving flowers and cards remain popular, many people today focus on the personal connections they have with others, whether through acts of kindness, heartfelt messages, or simply spending time together. Ultimately, Valentine's Day serves as a reminder of the importance of expressing love and appreciation, whether it's romantic, familial, or platonic.

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Spell: PLATONIC MEDIA GESTURE

Tell me one aspect of popular culture that has shaped Valentine's Day.
MOVIES, SONGS, ADVERTISEMENTS

What kind of connections do many people focus on today? PERSONAL

What's one way people focus on their personal connections? ACTS OF
KINDNESS, HEARTFELT MESSAGES, SPENDING TIME TOGETHER

Valentine's Day serves as a _____ of expressing love and appreciation.
REMINDER

What are your thoughts on celebrating Valentine's Day?

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