

Happy Valentine's Day

Valentine is just around the corner, ready to shower us with flowers, heart shaped sweets, chocolates, cards and other presents from a secret admirer, a boyfriend or girlfriend, or simply a friend. Displays in shop windows are filled with gifts to choose from.

St. Valentine

This special day finds its origins in the
third century AD. The Roman Emperor
Claudius II had banned marriage since he
felt that it turned men into poor soldiers.
Valentine, a Christian priest in Rome,
disagreed with this law, believing it
important that men and women be
married, instead of living in sin. He
secretly and illegally wed couples so that
they could live together honestly by the
Church.

20 Imprisoned

Unfortunately, Valentine was discovered and put into prison for breaking the law and practicing Christian beliefs. While he was in jail, he fell in love with the blind daughter of his jailer. Valentine healed her of her blindness. Before he was executed on February 14, 269 AD, he sent her a letter telling her he loved her and signed it 'Your Valentine'.

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By the 1700's in England, Valentine's Day began to resemble how we celebrate it at present. All those years ago, lovers began to express their love with gifts of flowers, sweets and cards, known as 'valentines'. To this day, we celebrate Valentine's Day in the same way.



A commercial success

There are many valentines you can give
to a loved one. In the 1800's, two ideas
took hold and have both become huge
economic successes. First of all, Mrs
Howland produced cards that people
could buy and send to their admirer. As a
result, Valentine's Day is the second most
popular day of the year for sending cards,
second only to Christmas. A few years
later, Mr Cadbury designed the chocolate
heart-shaped box filled with delicious
chocolates for your 'sweetheart'. Now, on
Valentine's Day, there are at least 36
million heart-shaped boxes of chocolates
sold every year.

Tips for Valentine's Day

55 Aside from chocolates or a card, you can choose from flowers – traditionally roses -, balloons, teddy bears, sweets, or jewellery. The most popular rose to give is of course, the red rose, symbolising 60 love and romance. However, a pink rose simply says 'thank you', while a yellow rose signifies friendship. At school you can often order your rose and have it delivered, anonymously if needed. Of 65 course, an out of the ordinary valentine may be even more successful. Why not bake some heart-shaped cupcakes or put together a special music playlist? On the other hand, you could remain traditional 70 and write a Roses are red, violets are

Source: www.abcteach.com; www.softschool.com

blue poem.

