

Saint Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is celebrated around the world on 14th February. It is a traditional celebration of love and is associated with giving gifts such as flowers, chocolates, cards and other gifts. But why do we celebrate Saint Valentine's Day?

Why do we celebrate Saint Valentine's Day?

There are many myths about why we celebrate Saint Valentine's Day. The most popular is based on a man named Valentine. He was a Christian priest when the Roman Emperor Claudius II was in charge.

Claudius II wanted to build a strong army. He worried that married men would not want to leave their homes and families to fight in war. As a result, he banned men from getting married, so they could concentrate on war and fighting. This law upset many people, including Valentine. It is said that he performed marriages in secret.

It is also thought that Claudius II tried to make Valentine give up his Christian faith. Valentine refused and was sent to prison for helping Christians to marry in secret. The myth continues that he became a friend of the daughter of one of his jailers. It is thought he wrote her letters signed 'yours, Valentine'.

He was sentenced to death in February of either AD 269 or 270, and we now celebrate Saint Valentine's Day in memory of him.

Other Valentine's Day myths

Others believe that Valentine's Day originates from the Roman festival Lupercalia. This was a celebration of love and also occurred in February.

Having a day to celebrate love was a popular idea during this time because it was seen as really important to be kind and polite to women.

Did you know?

It is thought that over £503 million is spent each year on cards and gifts for Saint Valentine's Day in Britain!



When was Valentine's Day first written about?

In 1382, Geoffrey Chaucer wrote about Valentine's Day in his poem 'Parliament of Fowles'. It is widely thought to be the first Valentine's Day poem.

The earliest known Valentine was written by Charles, Duke of Orleans. Charles was sent to prison in the Tower of London in 1415, where he wrote a poem to his wife calling her his 'sweet valentine'.

How is Valentine's Day celebrated around the world?

- **United Kingdom** - people send cards and gifts to their loved ones.
- **South Africa** - the traditions of the festival Lupercalia are followed. Women write the name of their loved one on a piece of paper, and pin it to their sleeve. This is where the phrase 'to wear your heart on your sleeve' comes from.
- **Germany** - heart-shaped gingerbread biscuits are very popular. Also people often give pig figurines as a gift. Pigs are believed to be a symbol of good luck.
- **South Korea** - women give gifts to men on 14th February. These are usually chocolate gifts. One month later, on 14th March, men give gifts to women.

'I Love You' Around the World.

- Ich liebe dich – German
- 'Rwy'n dy garu di – Welsh
- Ek het jou lief – South Africa
- Je t'aime – French
- Ti amo – Italian
- Sarang heyo – South Korea



Questions

1. Who was Saint Valentine? Tick one.

- A Roman Emperor
- A soldier
- A Christian priest
- A married man

2. Saint Valentine is considered to have been a very brave man. Do you agree? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

3. When did the Roman festival Lupercalia take place?

4. Who wrote the poem, 'Parliament of Foules.'?

5. How much money is spent on Valentines gifts and cards each year in the UK? Tick one.

- £503 billion
- £269 million
- £270 million
- £503 million

6. Match the country with the way in which they celebrate Valentine's Day.

South Africa

People give pig figurines

United Kingdom

Women give gifts to men on 14th
February

Germany

Women write the name of their loved
one on their sleeve

South Korea

People send gifts and cards to their
loved ones

7. How do you say 'I love you' in Italian? Tick one.

Je t'aime

Ti amo

Ich leibe dich

Sarang heyo

Answers

1. Who was Saint Valentine? Tick one.

- A Roman Emperor
- A soldier
- A Christian priest
- A married man

2. Saint Valentine is considered to have been a very brave man. Do you agree? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Pupils own response, such as: Yes, I do agree because it says in the text that he refused to give up his faith and he married people in secret. This was dangerous as Claudius II have banned people from marrying so he was risking his life.

3. When did the Roman festival Lupercalia take place?

February

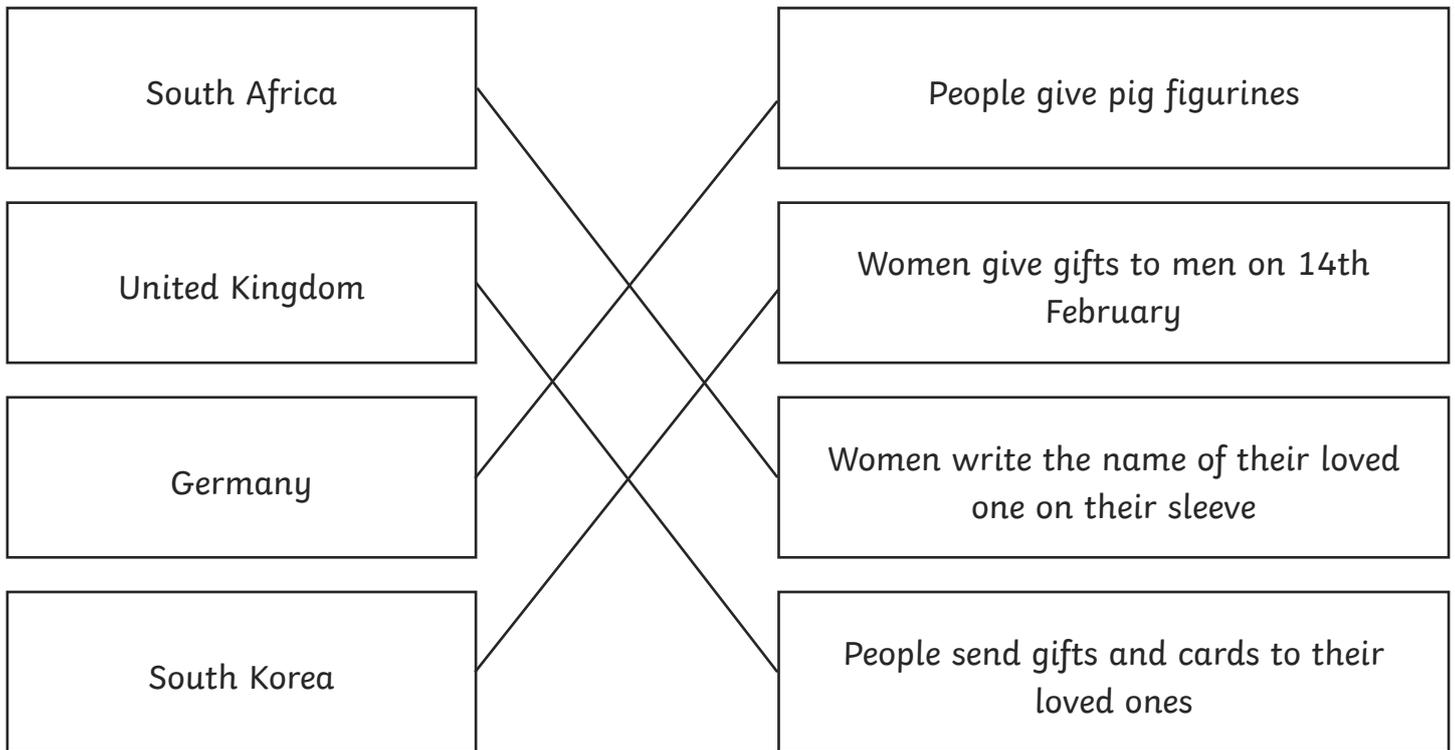
4. Who wrote the poem, 'Parliament of Foules.'?

Geoffrey Chaucer

5. How much money is spent on Valentines gifts and cards each year in the UK? Tick one.

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6. Match the country with the way in which they celebrate Valentine's Day.



7. How do you say 'I love you' in Italian? Tick one.

- Je t'aime
- Ti amo
- Ich leibe dich
- Sarang heyo

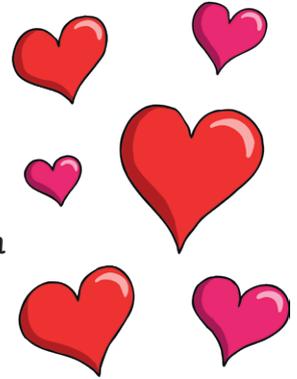
Saint Valentine's Day

Saint Valentine's Day is celebrated around the world on 14th February, although it is not a national or religious holiday. It is a traditional celebration of love and is marked by giving presents such as flowers, chocolates, cards and other gifts.

Why do we celebrate Saint Valentine's Day?

There are many myths about Valentine's Day and why it is celebrated. However, the most popular is based on a man named Valentine, who was a Christian priest during the reign of the Roman Emperor, Claudius II. Claudius II wanted to build a strong army, and felt that married men would not want to leave their homes and families to fight in conflicts. Therefore, he forbade men to marry so they could concentrate on war and fighting rather than their loved ones.

This law upset many people, including Valentine. It is rumoured that he performed marriages in secret in his capacity as a Christian priest. It is also thought that Claudius II questioned Valentine about these activities many times, and tried to convert him to paganism. However, Valentine refused and was imprisoned for harbouring Christians and for helping them to marry in secret. The myth continues that Valentine became a friend of the daughter of one of his jailers, writing her letters signed, 'yours, Valentine'. He was sentenced to death in February of either AD 269 or 270, and we now celebrate Saint Valentine's Day in memory of him.



Others believe that Valentine's Day come from the Roman festival Lupercalia. This was a celebration of love, which also occurred in February. Having a day to celebrate love was a popular idea during this time, as chivalry (being kind and polite towards women) was thought to be extremely important.

Did you know?

It is estimated that over £503 million is spent each year on cards and gifts for Saint Valentine's Day in Britain!

When was Valentine's Day first spoken of?

The first time Valentine's Day is mentioned in literature is 1382. This was in the 'Parliament of Foules', a poem by Geoffrey Chaucer. It is often called the first Valentine's Day poem. The earliest known Valentine written was by Charles, Duke Orleans. He was captured during the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, and while he was in prison, he wrote a poem to his wife, calling her his 'sweet valentine'.

Valentine's Day around the world

In the UK, people send cards and gifts to their loved ones. In South Africa, the traditions of the festival Lupercalia are followed. Women write the name of their loved one on a piece of paper, and pin it to their sleeve. This is where the phrase 'to wear your heart on your sleeve' comes from. In Germany, like the UK, people give cards and gifts. They also give heart-shaped gingerbread biscuits and often pig figurines. This is because pigs are thought to symbolize luck. In South Korea, women give gifts to men on 14th February. These are usually chocolate gifts. One month later, on 14th March, men give gifts to women.

'I Love You' Around the World.

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- 'Rwy'n dy garu di – Welsh
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Questions

1. Who was the Roman Emperor when Valentine was alive? Tick one.

- Claudius I
- Geoffrey Chaucer
- Claudius III
- Claudius II

2. Why did Claudius ban men and women from marrying each other? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

3. **Find** and **copy** a word that means **disallowed**.

4. What does the word 'chivalry' mean? Tick one.

- Asking someone to marry you.
- Being polite and kind towards women.
- Being brave
- Being unkind and impolite towards women.

5. Number the events below to show the order in which they happened. One has been done for you.

	People around the world give gifts and cards on 14th February.
	Geoffrey Chaucer wrote 'Parliament of Foules'.
	Saint Valentine was sentenced to death.
	Claudius II banned men and women from marrying.
	Charles, Duke Orleans wrote a poem to his wife.

6. What is thought to be the first Valentine's Day poem?

7. Where does the expression, 'to wear your heart on your sleeve' come from and why? Explain your answer fully.

8. Draw lines to match how to say, 'I love you' in different languages.

South Korean

Ti amo

German

Je t'aime

French

'Rwy'n dy garu di

Italian

Ich leibe dich

Welsh

Sarang heyo

Answers

1. Who was the Roman Emperor when Valentine was alive? Tick one.

- Claudius I
- Geoffrey Chaucer
- Claudius III
- Claudius II

2. Why did Claudius ban men and women from marrying each other? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Pupil's own response, such as: Claudius banned men and women from marrying each other because he it says that he wanted to build a strong army and felt that if a man was married he would not want to leave his wife and family.

3. **Find and copy** a word that means **disallowed**.
forbade

4. What does the word 'chivalry' mean? Tick one.

- Asking someone to marry you.
- Being polite and kind towards women.
- Being brave
- Being unkind and impolite towards women.

5. Number the events below to show the order in which they happened. One has been done for you.

5	People around the world give gifts and cards on 14th February.
3	Geoffrey Chaucer wrote 'Parliament of Foules'.
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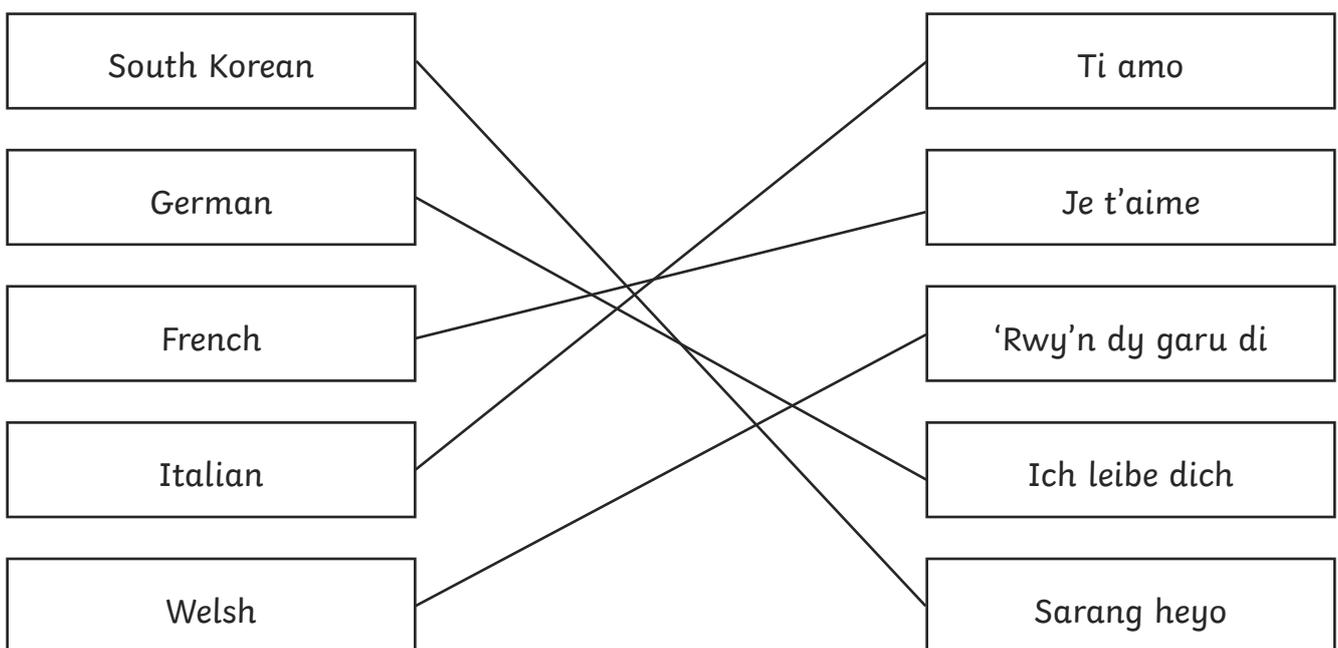
6. What is thought to be the first Valentine's Day poem?

Parliament of Foules

7. Where does the expression, 'to wear your heart on your sleeve' come from and why? Explain your answer fully.

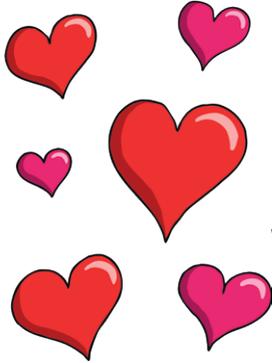
Pupil's own response, such as: The expression 'to wear your heart on your sleeve' comes from the Roman festival Lupercalia. In South Africa, women write the names of their loved ones and pin it on their sleeve.

8. Draw lines to match how to say, 'I love you' in different languages.



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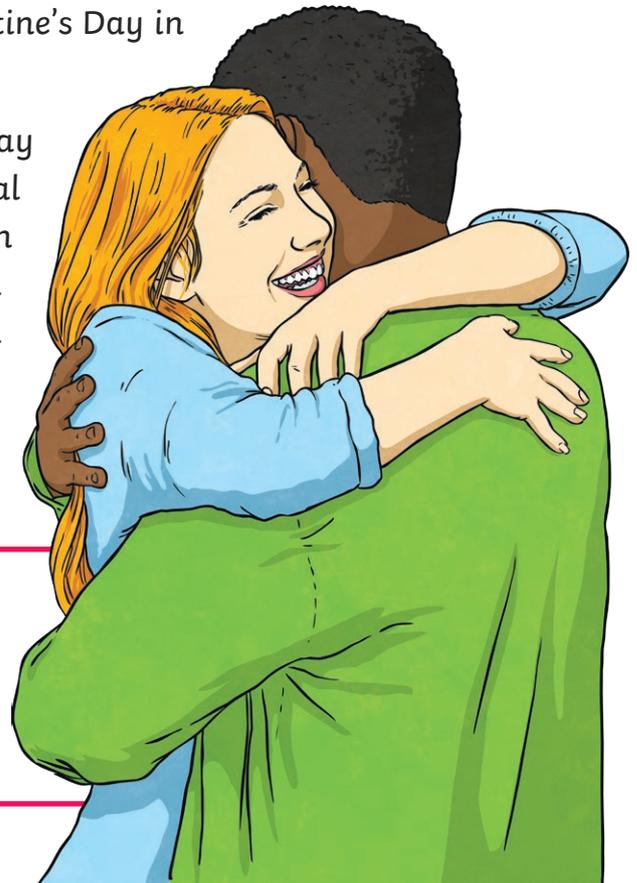


There are several myths regarding Valentine's Day and why it is celebrated. However, the most popular is based on a man named Valentine who was a Christian priest during the reign of the Roman Emperor, Claudius II. Claudius II wanted to build a strong army, and felt that married men would not want to leave their homes and families to fight in conflicts. Therefore, he forbade men to marry so they could concentrate on war and fighting rather than their loved ones. This law upset many people, including Valentine. It is rumoured that he performed marriages in secret in his capacity as a Christian priest. It is also thought that Claudius II questioned Valentine about these activities many times, and tried to convert him to paganism. However, Valentine refused and was imprisoned for harbouring Christians and for helping them to marry in secret. The myth continues that Valentine became a friend of the daughter of one of his jailers, writing her letters signed, 'yours, Valentine'. He was sentenced to death in February of either AD 269 or 270, and we now celebrate Saint Valentine's Day in memory of him.

Others believe that Valentine's Day originates from the Roman festival Lupercalia, a celebration of love, which was also celebrated in February. Having a day to celebrate love was a popular idea during this time, as chivalry was deemed extremely important.

Did you know?

It is estimated that over £503 million is spent each year on cards and gifts for Saint Valentine's Day in Britain!



The first written references to Valentine's Day in literature date back to 1382 in the 'Parliament of Foules', a poem by Geoffrey Chaucer. It is widely thought to be the first Valentine's Day poem. There are also mentions of Valentine's Day in William Shakespeare's play Hamlet (1600-1601). The earliest known Valentine written was by Charles, Duke of Orleans, when he was imprisoned in the Tower of London after he was captured during the Battle of Agincourt in 1415. He wrote a poem to his wife, calling her his 'sweet valentine'.

There are many different Valentine's Day traditions around the world. In the UK, people send cards and gifts to their loved ones. In South Africa, the traditions of the festival Lupercalia are followed. Women write the name of their loved one on a piece of paper, and pin it to their sleeve. This is where the phrase 'to wear your heart on your sleeve' comes from. In Germany, like the UK, cards and gifts are exchanged. They also give heart-shaped gingerbread biscuits and pig figurines, as pigs are believed to symbolise luck. In South Korea, women give chocolate gifts to men on 14th February. One month later, on 14th March, men give gifts to women.

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Questions

1. What do you think the expression 'to wear your heart on your sleeve' really means? Explain your answer in your own words.

2. **Find** and **copy** a word that is similar in meaning to **war**.

3. What religion did Claudius try to convert Valentine to? Tick one.

- Judaism
- Islam
- Paganism
- Buddhism

4. Why do you think Valentine was sentenced to death? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

5. Which Shakespearean play mentions Valentine's Day?

6. Who was imprisoned in the Tower of London in 1415? Tick one.

- Saint Valentine
- Geoffrey Chaucer
- Claudius II
- Charles, Duke of Orleans.

7. Why do you think it took such a long time for Valentine's Day to be referenced in literature?

8. When do men give gifts to women in South Korea?

Answers

1. What do you think the expression 'to wear your heart on your sleeve' really means? Explain your answer in your own words.

Pupil's own response, such as: I think that the expression means that you should make it clear when you love someone and not hide your feelings just like the women who wear the name of the people they love on their sleeve.

2. **Find** and **copy** a word that is similar in meaning to **war**.
conflict

3. What religion did Claudius try to convert Valentine to? Tick one.

- Judaism
- Islam
- Paganism
- Buddhism

4. Why do you think Valentine was sentenced to death? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Pupil's own response, such as: I think that Valentine was sentenced to death because it says in the text that he performed marriages in secret even though Claudius had banned it. Valentine was breaking the law and so Claudius had him killed.

5. Which Shakespearean play mentions Valentine's Day?

Hamlet

6. Who was imprisoned in the Tower of London in 1415? Tick one.

- Saint Valentine
- Geoffrey Chaucer
- Claudius II
- Charles, Duke of Orleans.

7. Why do you think it took such a long time for Valentine's Day to be referenced in literature?
Pupil's own response, such as: I think it took a long time for Valentine's Day to be referred to in literature because it says in the text that it is not a religious or national holiday so was not seen as important as others, such as Christmas and Easter. Also, it says that there are many myths surrounding Valentine's Day and these would have been passed down by word of mouth which would take a long time to spread.
8. When do men give gifts to women in South Korea?
14th March