

Cultural Explanation

Valentine's Day

- 1. What do we call February 14th?** (whiteboard: February 14)
 - Valentine's Day or St. Valentine's Day (whiteboard)
- 2. What do we celebrate on Valentine's Day?** (Students might answer 'how' instead of 'what.' Suggest also asking a synonym question: **What is the main idea that we celebrate on Valentine's Day?**)
 - love
 - husbands & wives, and boyfriends & girlfriends focus on their love
 - It is also a day when friends and family can show their love for each other.
- 3. What kinds of things do people do to celebrate Valentine's Day? How do people celebrate?**
 - husband/wife, boyfriend/girlfriend often have a special dinner together.
 - They give each other cards and/or gifts (flowers, jewelry, candy, chocolates).
 - Children make or buy Valentines cards to give to their friends at school.
 - Children sometimes have Valentine's parties with heart cookies and candies.
 - Some people get married on Valentine's Day.
- 4. What decorations are related to Valentine's Day?**
What pictures or symbols are related to Valentine's Day? (Optional: Show pictures)
 - Red and pink are the colors associated with Valentine's Day.
 - There are often heart shaped decorations, cookies, cakes, candies, etc.
 - Cupid is a fat little baby who shoots invisible arrows with a bow to make people fall in love (originally a Roman god of love).
 - Flowers are used to decorate, especially red roses.
- 5. Valentine was a real person in history. Who was Valentine? What do you know about Valentine?**
 - He was a Christian priest born in 3rd century Rome, a time and place when Christians were often punished or killed because they didn't worship Roman gods.
 - Valentine and Roman Christians secretly worshipped Jesus to avoid punishment.
- 6. What is the history behind celebrating Valentine's Day on February 14th?**

SHORT EXPLANATION: Valentine was a Christian priest in Rome. During his time, it was illegal for soldiers to get married. However, Valentine still secretly performed weddings. The ruler found out and had Valentine killed on February 14, AD 270.



Valentine's Day – February 14



Who was Valentine?

- Valentine was a Christian priest in Rome. During his time, it was illegal for soldiers to get married. However, Valentine still secretly performed weddings. The ruler found out and had Valentine killed on February 14, AD 270.

Longer Explanation:

- Valentine was born in the 3rd century AD in Rome and was a Christian priest.
- At that time and place, it was dangerous to be a Christian because the government wanted people to worship Roman gods - not Jesus.
- Valentine and the Christians worshipped secretly so they wouldn't be caught and punished.
- The Emperor Claudius said Roman soldiers could not get married, but Valentine secretly performed weddings for young couples. As a result, the emperor jailed Valentine.
- The Emperor asked Valentine questions about his Christian beliefs and Valentine tried to help him learn to follow Jesus. However, Claudius and his leaders (especially Asterius) continued trying to convince Valentine to worship Roman gods.
- Asterius had a blind daughter who had unsuccessfully been to many doctors. Valentine prayed and she was healed! Asterius was amazed, and over time, he and his whole family became Christians. When Emperor Claudius heard this, he was angry, and had Asterius, his family, and Valentine killed. Valentine was beheaded on February 14th AD 270 near Rome.

Historical Valentine's Day Traditions:

- Eventually people began giving flowers and candy to loved ones on Feb.14th.
- The first Valentine card was given sometime in the 1500's by a French soldier who was in prison in England. He missed his wife very much and wrote her special love letters. More and more people began doing this, and would put hearts, flowers, cupids and birds on the letters....these love letters became known as "Valentines."

Valentine's Day Today:

- is a day when husbands & wives, and boyfriends & girlfriends focus on their love for one another, often having a special dinner together and giving each other cards or gifts (flowers, jewelry, candy, chocolates, etc).
- It is also a day when friends and family can show their love for each other.
- Children often make or buy little valentine cards to give to their friends at school, and sometimes have valentine parties with special heart cookies and candies.
- Red and pink are the colors associated with Valentine's Day.
- Some people get married on Valentine's Day.

Vocabulary:

saint: a very good Christian person, usually referring to someone who has already died

cupid: a Roman god, believed to fly and shoot people with arrows to make people fall in love (See picture of a cupid above on both sides of the title.)

sweetheart: a special name to call the person you love; often heard on Valentine's Day

valentine card: a special card that can be made or bought, to give to friends and those you love
The card might say something like: "Will you be my Valentine?" or "Happy Valentine's Day."

red roses: flowers that most commonly symbolize love, often given on Valentine's Day

romance or romantic: to talk or behave lovingly; between a man and woman