



The History of St Valentine's Day

Worksheet 1

Name: _____

1

Look at the words in the cloud below. Which words do you associate with Valentine's Day? Tick them and then tell your partner why you make the association?



2

What do people usually give on Valentine's Day? Make a list of possible gifts.

3

What percentage of the population in your country celebrate St Valentine's Day? Can you guess?



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Worksheet 2

Name: _____

1

How did St Valentine's Day become associated with love and romance? Watch the **video** (0:17- 2:29) and get the full story, then complete the summary.

valentine's Day can be traced _____ (1), the ancient Roman festival of _____ (2). The celebration, dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, included a feast, animal sacrifices and the whipping of women with strips of blood-stained goat skin to ensure their fertility.

In the 3rd Century, Emperor Claudius II, known as Claudius the Cruel, banned _____ (3), believing that single men made better _____ (4) than married men with families. However, a priest, named valentine, rebelled against the Emperor and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When valentine was discovered, he was sentenced to death. While waiting for execution, valentine fell in love with his jailor's daughter. On the day of his execution, 14th February, he wrote her a letter signed '... from your valentine', a phrase still used on cards today.

In the 5th Century, Pope Gelasius decided to _____ (5) the pagan festival of Lupercalia declaring 14th February as a day to honour St valentine. It was not until much later, however, that the day became associated with love and _____ (6).

Today, we continue to honour St valentine's dedication to love by spending billions of dollars on cards and gifts for our loved ones each year. Approximately 1 billion valentine's Day cards are exchanged _____ (7), making valentine's Day the second most popular card-sending holiday after _____ (8).



Source: <http://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day>



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Worksheet 3

Name:

1

How much is spent for St Valentines' Day in the USA? Can you match the figures and the gifts?

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1. 1 billion | A. Heart-shaped boxes of chocolates |
| 2. 35 million | B. Roses |
| 3. 220 million | C. St Valentine's cards |
| 4. 20 billion | D. Jewellery |
| 5. 4 billion | E. Total spending for St Valentine's Day |

2

Discuss in groups - Is St Valentine's Day a legitimate way to show someone you love them or is it an excuse for consumerism? Do you have to spend money to show your love?





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Worksheet 4

Name: _____

1

To follow up, go to **Lyrics Training** (you may have to register if you haven't already) and search for any of the following songs, choosing the most appropriate level, then complete the gaps.

- Under the Influence* Ella King
- Money Can't Buy Me Love*..... The Beatles
- Love Will Set You Free*..... Kodaline
- Love Story*..... Taylor Swift
- Love Me Do*..... The Beatles

