

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'.

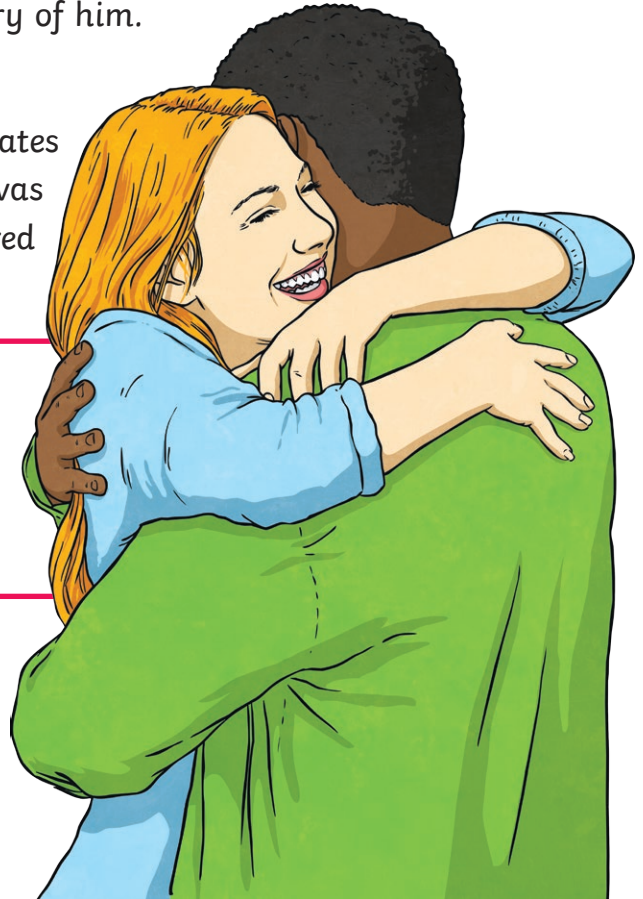
He was sentenced to death in February of either AD 269 or 270, and we now celebrate Saint Valentine's Day in memory of him.

Other Valentine's Day myths

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

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.

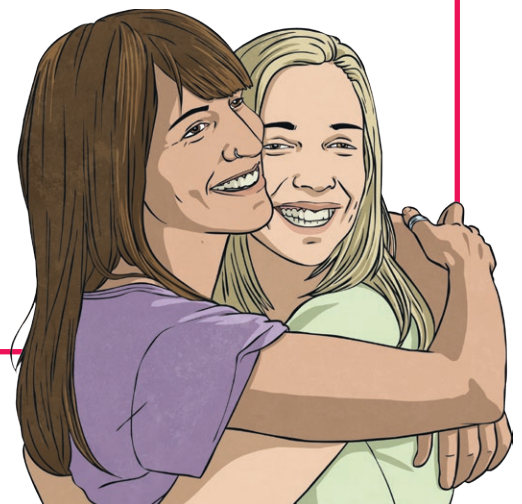
The earliest known Valentine was written by Charles, Duke of Orleans. Charles was sent to prison in the Tower of London in 1415, where he wrote a poem to his wife calling her his 'sweet valentine'.

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. When is Saint Valentine's Day celebrated?

2. What is Lupercalia?

3. True or False - Saint Valentine was brave. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

4. Complete the table.

	German
Je t'aime	
	Welsh
Ek het jou lief	
Sarang heyo	South Korea

5. When and where was Valentine's Day first mentioned in literature?

6. What does 'originates' mean?

7. Why do you think nobody knows for sure where Saint Valentine's Day comes from?

Answers

1. When is Saint Valentine's Day celebrated?

Saint Valentine's Day is celebrated on 14th February.

2. What is Lupercalia?

Lupercalia is a Roman festival celebrating love. It was celebrated in February.

3. True or False - Saint Valentine was brave. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

True - he refused to give up his faith; he married people in secret, even though he knew it was dangerous; he followed his beliefs until his death.

4. Complete the table.

Ich liebe dich	German
Je t'aime	French
'Rwy'n dy garu di	Welsh
Ek het jou lief	South African
Sarang heyo	South Korea

5. When and where was Valentine's Day first mentioned in literature?

Valentine's Day was first mentioned in Geoffrey Chaucer's poem 'Parliament of Foules' in 1382.

6. What does 'originates' mean?

The word originates means where something comes from.

7. Why do you think nobody knows for sure where Saint Valentine's Day comes from?

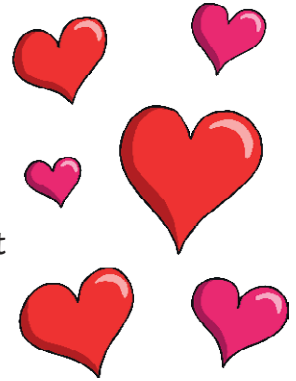
Answers should include: there are many different myths; everything happened a long time ago and not much is known about that time; different countries may have different stories.

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 fertility, which also occurred in February.

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?

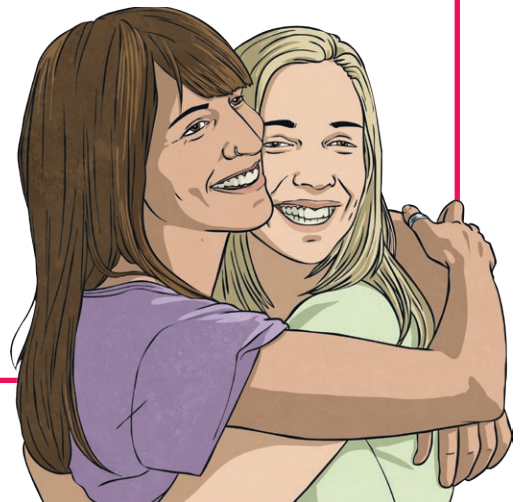
The first time Valentine's Day is mentioned in literature is 1382. This was in the 'Parliament of Foules', a poem by Geoffrey Chaucer. It is often called the first Valentine's Day poem. The earliest known Valentine written was by Charles, Duke Orleans. He was captured during the Battle of Agincourt in 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.

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Questions

1. Why do you think people aren't sure on how Saint Valentine's Day began?

2. What can we infer about Saint Valentine when he refuses to give up being a Christian?

3. How is Saint Valentine's Day celebrated in South Africa?

4. Why did Claudius II ban marriage?

5. What do you think the phrase 'to wear your heart on your sleeve' really means?

6. Complete the table below.

The Parliament of Foules was written	
	AD 269 or 270
	1415
	14th March

7. Why do you think nobody knows for sure where Saint Valentine's Day comes from?

8. Write 'I love you' in three different languages.

Answers

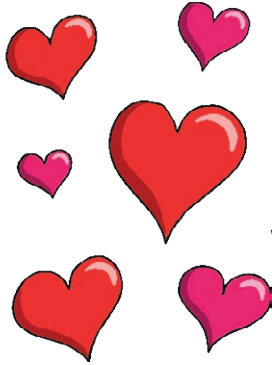
1. Why do you think people aren't sure on how Saint Valentine's Day began?
Answers should include: there are many different myths about why Saint Valentine's Day is celebrated; the story of Valentine is from such a long time ago; and there are many different things documented.
2. What can we infer about Saint Valentine when he refuses to give up being a Christian?
We can infer that he is very brave and loyal, as he would be punished and maybe even killed for refusing to give up his faith.
3. How is Saint Valentine's Day celebrated in South Africa?
In South Africa, Saint Valentine's Day is based on the traditions of Lupercalia. Women write the name of a loved one on a piece of paper and pin it to their sleeve.
4. Why did Claudius II ban marriage?
He banned marriage as he wanted to build a strong army and he felt that men would not leave their wives to take part in conflict. He felt that single men would be more likely to participate in battle.
5. What do you think the phrase 'to wear your heart on your sleeve' really means?
The phrase 'to wear your heart on your sleeve' mean that you show your emotions clearly.
6. Complete the table below.

The Parliament of Foules was written	1382
It is thought Saint Valentine died	AD 269 or 270
Charles, Duke of Orleans wrote the first Valentine	1415
In South Korea, men give women gifts	14th March

7. Why do you think nobody knows for sure where Saint Valentine's Day comes from?
Approximately £503 million is spent.
8. Write 'I love you' in three different languages.
Any three of the five from the text.

Saint Valentine's Day

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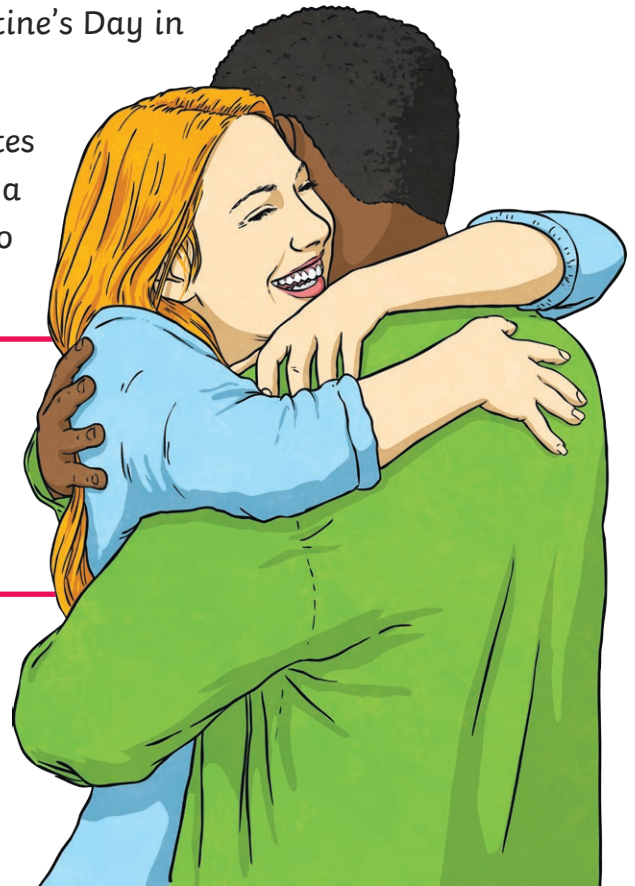


There are several myths regarding Valentine's Day and why it is celebrated. However, the most popular is based on a man named Valentine who was a Christian priest during the reign of the Roman Emperor, Claudius II. Claudius II wanted to build a strong army, and felt that married men would not want to 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 fertility, which was also celebrated in February.

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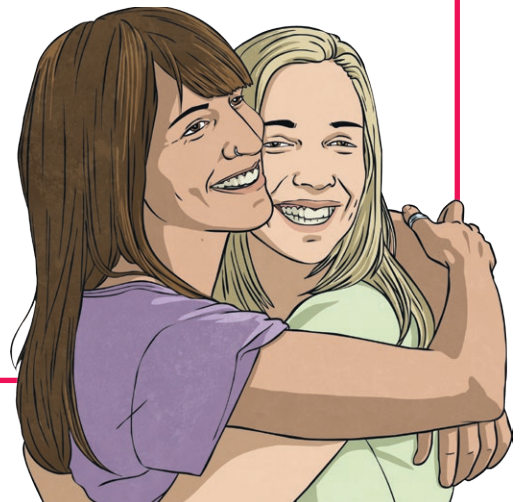


The first written references to Valentine's Day in literature date back to 1382 in the 'Parliament of Foules', a poem by Geoffrey Chaucer. It is widely thought to be the first Valentine's Day poem. There are also mentions of Valentine's Day in William Shakespeare's play Hamlet (1600-1601). The earliest 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. Why do you think there are different myths about why Saint Valentine's Day is celebrated?

2. What does 'convert' mean?

3. What can we infer about Saint Valentine when he refuses to convert to paganism?

4. Why did Claudius II ban marriage?

5. What does it mean that Saint Valentine was harbouring Christians?

6. Why do you think Saint Valentine's Day is so popular around the world?

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

8. What do you think the phrase 'to wear your heart on your sleeve' really means?

9. How might men have felt living under the reign of Claudius II?

Answers

1. Why do you think there are different myths about why Saint Valentine's Day is celebrated?

Various answers but answers such as: There are many different myths about why Saint Valentine's Day is celebrated as it was such a long time ago, and there are many different things documented.

2. What does 'convert' mean?

Convert means to convince someone to change their mind about something, or about their beliefs/religion.

3. What can we infer about Saint Valentine when he refuses to convert to paganism?

We can infer that he is very brave, as he would be punished and maybe even killed for refusing to give up his faith.

4. Why did Claudius II ban marriage?

He banned marriage as he wanted to build a strong army and he felt that men would not leave their wives to take part in conflict. He felt that single men would be more likely to participate in battle.

5. What does it mean that Saint Valentine was harbouring Christians?

Harbouring Christians means that Valentine protected Christians who were in danger and hid them from the authorities.

6. Why do you think Saint Valentine's Day is so popular around the world?

Various answers.

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

Various answers, maybe discussing the fact that there are many other more established holidays e.g. Christmas, Easter; the fact that it was not a religious or national holiday, so was not recognised for a long time.

8. What do you think the phrase 'to wear your heart on your sleeve' really means?

The phrase 'to wear your heart on your sleeve' means that you show your emotions clearly.

9. How might men have felt living under the reign of Claudius II?

Various answers such as, they might have felt that it was right to fight for your country; they might have felt angry that they could not marry someone they loved; they might have been scared as they would have to fight in conflicts and leave behind people they cared about etc.