



VALENTINES DAY



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:

13XC-L6CA-5LSU



1

Key vocabulary

Match the underlined words with the correct definitions below.

1. There was a festival in the city to celebrate the beginning of spring. c
2. Anthony doesn't want to write a poem for his girlfriend, but she really likes poetry. h
3. Esteban wanted to date Arianna so he asked for her phone number. g
4. It was their wedding anniversary. They got married 40 years ago. d
5. Hanna is pregnant. Her family is very excited. e
6. Many couples go out to dinner for Valentine's Day. b
7. The tiger chose a mate that was strong and healthy. f
8. Rachel and Paul are engaged. They'll get married next year. a

- a. a date on which an important event happened in the past
- b. an animal's sexual partner
- c. an annual celebration (with music and food)
- d. expecting a baby
- e. people who are married or are in romantic relationships
- f. promised to marry each other
- g. spend a lot of time with someone that you have a romantic relationship with
- h. written verses that sometimes rhyme



2

Before you read

Before reading the text about Valentine's Day, put T (true) or F (false) next to each of the statements below. Then scan the text on the next page to confirm or correct your answers.

1. In the beginning, Valentine's Day was a day for soldiers who couldn't get married.
2. Valentine's Day was a Christian celebration.
3. A man called Valentine helped people in prison write letters to their lovers.
4. A pagan festival influenced the date of Valentine's Day.
5. Valentine's Day became connected with romance because of the king's parties.
6. Saint Valentine Keys are given to people to keep their hearts safe.
7. In the U.S., people send nearly 200 million valentine cards every year.
8. In Brazil, Valentine's Day is celebrated on a different day of the year.





When did Valentine's Day start?

The beginning of a romantic tradition

1. In many countries, people celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14th. It's an important event for those in love as well as for businesses. People send cards and give presents to those they love, or to people they like and want to date.
2. Valentine's Day was first a Western Christian festival where people ate a lot of food to celebrate Valentinus or 'Valentine'. One story says that Valentine was a religious man in Rome in the third century. The leader at the time, **Claudius II, decided not to allow young soldiers to marry, because they fought better when they didn't think about their wives or families.** Valentine didn't like this rule and helped couples get married in secret. When Claudius discovered this, he wanted to kill Valentine.
3. Some stories say **that Valentine was killed** because he helped Christians escape from Roman prisons. When he **was in prison himself, he fell in love with a girl who was probably the guard's daughter. He sent her a letter before his death and signed it: "from your Valentine", a phrase that people still use today.**
4. While some people believe that the day is to celebrate the death of Valentine or when he was buried, **others think that the Christian church put it in the middle of February because of a festival called Lupercalia,** to make it more Christian.
5. **Lupercalia** was an annual festival that took place on the 15th of February to celebrate the **Roman God of Agriculture,** to help women have children. People killed a **dog and a goat during the festival, and put the blood on the goat's skin. Then they softly hit women and crop fields with the skin. This** was to help the women become pregnant during the year and make crops grow better. All the young women in a city also put their names in a special jar, and the single men in the city chose a name. These couples often got married.
6. The **day had no connection with romantic love until the 14th century, when Geoffrey Chaucer wrote a poem to celebrate the first anniversary of when Richard II got engaged.** The poem talked about the time of year when birds **choose mates.** In France and England people believed this happened in the middle of February, so it was also a good time to celebrate love between humans.
7. In **the 18th century** the day became very similar to our modern **Valentine's day. People gave flowers and presents to their partners, but usually handwritten cards and poems.** In Europe, people still give **Saint Valentine's Keys** as a **sign for a love interest to unlock their hearts.**
8. Now, card companies can make printed cards very easily and sell them for a small price, **so handwritten cards are much less popular. In the U.S., around 190 million valentine cards are sent each year. In 2015, people** spent over **\$2.5 billion on Valentine's** Day cards and gifts in the United Kingdom,
9. Valentine's Day is **different around the world. In South Korea, women give chocolate to men on February 14th, and men give sweets that aren't chocolate to women on the 14th of March.** In Finland, Valentine's Day is called "Friends Day", which celebrates the love between friends. In **Brazil the day is called "Boyfriends' and Girlfriends' Day"** and is celebrated on June 12th.

**3****Checking understanding**

Answer the questions below.

1. Why didn't the leader let young soldiers get married?
2. What was used during the festival of Lupercalia to help make things grow?
3. Why did Valentine's day become connected with romantic love?
4. What is unusual about Valentine's Day traditions in Korea?

4**Verbs**

Choose the correct verbs from the text to complete the sentences.

believe **bury** **celebrate** **decide** **escape** **happen**

1. It's common to _____ Valentine's Day on February 14th.
2. Stefan couldn't _____ which flowers were the best, so he bought one of each.
3. Alex wanted to _____ from the Valentine's party but he had to stay all night.
4. Sabine didn't _____ that her boyfriend wrote the poem, but it was in his handwriting.
5. They had to _____ the dog that day. Everyone was very upset.
6. Not enough people bought tickets, so the festival couldn't _____ . .

5**Talking Point**

How do people celebrate Valentine's Day in your country? If people don't celebrate it, is there a different special day at this time?



Key

1. Key vocabulary

Students can work alone and then check in pairs.

1. c 2. h 3. g 4. a 5. d 6. e 7. b 8. f

2. Before you read

1. F - Valentine helped soldiers get married in secret, but this wasn't the reason for Valentine's Day.
2. T
3. F - He helped people escape from prison, but wrote a letter to his own lover before he died.
4. T
5. F - Chaucer wrote a poem about 'love birds' for the anniversary of when Richard II got engaged.
6. F - They are given to unlock someone's heart.
7. T
8. T

3. Checking understanding

1. Because they could fight better when they didn't think about their wives and families.
2. Animal's blood and skin from animals (dog and goat)
3. Chaucer wrote a poem about birds for Richard the II's engagement anniversary. The poem talked about birds and their partners.
4. People give gifts on different days - women give chocolate to men on the 14th of February and men give non-chocolate sweets to women on March 14th.

4. Verbs

Students can work alone and then check in pairs.

1. celebrate 2. decide 3. escape 4. believe 5. bury 6. happen

5. Talking Point

Monitor students conversations. Note typical errors and write useful vocabulary on the board.