



Spotlight 6

Reading Task 6506

Read the text and match each paragraph to the headline. One title is extra.

1. HOW PEOPLE CELEBRATE NOW
2. WHEN CARD SENDING STARTED?
3. ST VALENTINE DAY IN AUSTRALIA
4. WHAT IS VALENTINE'S DAY?
5. WHY IT IS CALLED VALENTINE'S DAY

- A.** Valentine's Day, or St Valentine's Day, is celebrated every year on 14 February. It's the day when people show their affection for another person (or people!) by sending anonymous cards, flowers or chocolates with messages of love.
- B.** The day gets its name from a famous saint, but there are several stories of who he was. The most popular is that St Valentine was a priest from Rome in the third century AD. Emperor Claudius II had banned marriage because he thought married men were bad soldiers. Valentine thought this was unfair, so he broke the rules and arranged marriages in secret. When Claudius found out, Valentine was thrown into jail and sentenced to death. There, he fell in love with the jailor's blind daughter. His love and belief in God cured her blindness, and when he was taken to be killed on 14 February, he sent her a love letter signed "From your Valentine".
- C.** Gradually, St Valentine's name started to be used mainly by men to express their feelings to those they loved. Valentine's Day became popular in the UK in the 17th century. By the 18th century it was traditional for people to exchange handwritten messages of affection. Printed cards soon replaced these, making it easier for people to say "I love you" secretly.
- D.** Today Valentine's Day is a massive holiday, with celebrations of love worldwide from India to Iceland. But it's not just about sending messages to people you love - you can also just say you care! In the UK, great money is spent by people on the most romantic day of the year: 22 million spent on flowers, 7 million red roses are sent, 12 million cards are sent. In 2001, when text messaging exploded, there were around 30 million WUBMV (Will You Be My Valentine?) messages sent! So, have a happy Valentine's Day but remember: don't feel left out if you don't get a card - it's the giving that counts!

A	B	C	D

