Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits the gap.

SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY IS A HALLMARK HOLIDAY

Hallmark holiday refers to a holiday that is perceived to exist mainly for **1)** _____ [COMMERCE] reasons, rather than to celebrate a **2)** _____ [TRADITION] significant **3)** _____ [RELIGION] or secular event. Although many people view these **4)** _____ [CELEBRATE] in a negative way, others have positive views. On the negative side, hallmark holidays don't really celebrate an important event, and only exist for companies to make a lot of money. On the positive side, the term describes the perfect holiday in which family, friends, and fun come first. Everyday problems, worries, and stress can be put **5)** _____ [SIDE]. Valentine's Day, which is celebrated on 14th February, is **6)** _____ [USUAL] considered to be one of the hallmark holidays.

In Valentine's Day billions of cards are sent. It is also an opportunity for customers to buy chocolates, flowers, **7)** _____ [ENGAGE] rings, **8)** _____ [ROMANCE] dinners, and so on. This commercial aspect can be traced back to the 19th century when **9)** _____ [PRINT] technology improved to cheaply mass-produce **10)** _____ [GREET] cards. But the origin of the celebration is much more ancient and can be traced back to a Roman festival called "Lupercalia" which was held in mid-February every year. The celebration purified new life in the spring. Around the third century A.D., the holiday became associated with Saint Valentine, although it isn't **11)** _____ [EXACT] clear how.

HISTORICAL ORIGIN OF THE CELEBRATION

A popular **12)** _____ [EXPLAIN] of the link between Saint Valentine and the Holiday says that at the time of the Roman "Lupercalia" Festival **13)** _____ [MARRY] was a common tradition, but when Claudius became Emperor he changed all of that. He outlawed all marriages because he was afraid that men would refuse their duty to fight because they would not want to leave their wives behind. Young couples still fell in love though and still wished to marry and they took these desires to the Catholic Bishop Valentine who, understanding love, began to **14)** _____ [SECRET] marry couples. When Claudius found out, he arrested Valentine and sentenced him to death. While waiting in prison, Valentine began to **15)** _____ [CHANGE] letters with the daughter of the **16)** _____ [JAIL] and soon had fallen in love with her. The day he was to be beheaded, he wrote her one last note and signed it: "From Your Valentine".

In 496 A.D. **17)** _____ [CHRISTIAN] had taken over Rome and Pope Gelasius outlawed the pagan Lupercian Festival. Knowing its **18)** _____ [POPULAR], he looked to **19)** _____ [PLACE] it with something more "appropriate" and set aside a day in February to honour the martyr Saint Valentine. Even though in 1969 the church removed St. Valentine's Day from its calendar of "official" holidays, it is still **20)** _____ [WIDE] celebrated today. And although Valentine's Day has become quite commercial, it still contains an important aspect shared by all of the best holidays - time spent thinking of and being with the one you love.

LIVEWORKSHEETS