The History of Valentine's Day...



Every February 14, around the world, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. Valentine's Day is associated with sending cards and flowers or chocolates to special friends and loved ones. Whatever is sent, the message remains the same: love and friendship. But how did it all begin? We have to go back centuries to find the history and legends of Valentine's Day.

One legend tells of a wonderful priest named Valentine who lived during the reign of the Roman Emperor Claudius II, about 200 A.D. At this time, Rome was in desperate need of an army and Claudius believed that married men would make less reliable soldiers because they wouldn't want to leave their wives and families. So, Claudius forbids young men to get married. However, Valentine secretly defied Claudius and performed marriage ceremonies in the temple. Soon, he became known as the friend of those in love. Eventually, Claudius discovered what the good priest was doing and the Emperor's anger was so great that he had Valentine thrown in jail. During his imprisonment, Valentine is said to have cured the jailer's daughter of blindness. Because of this miracle, he was sentenced to die...on February 14, 270 A.D. On the day he died, Valentine wrote the girl a note in which he spoke of bonds of affection between people. He signed the message, "*From your Valentine*". According to this legend, it is to honour St. Valentine that we celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14; in turn, we are celebrating love and marriage.

Another legend of St. Valentine exists...In this tale, Valentine was beloved by the village children for him always allowed them to play in his garden. He was placed in prison by the Romans for refusing to worship their gods. During his imprisonment, the children exchanged notes with him, attached to small bouquets of flowers, flung through the prison bars. Valentine was put to death on February 14th and we commemorate his death by sending flowers, chocolates and love notes on this day each year.

Scholars and historians the world over have yet to come up with definitive explanation for this day set aside for lovers. Pope Gelasius in the fifth century named Valentine as the patron saint

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Answer the questions with whole sentences.

When do we celebrate Valentine's Day?

.....

Where is Valentine's Day celebrated?

.....

What do people exchange?

.....

Why do they exchange these things?

.....

Who was Saint Valentine?

.....

When did he live?

.....

Why did Claudius forbid young man to marry?

.....

What did Saint Valentine do?

.....

What was Claudius reaction when he found out what the priest was doing?

.....

What happened when he was in jail, according to the legend?

.....

When did he die?

.....

According to another legend, why was he put in prison?

.....

Why did the children love him?

.....

What did the children do while he was in prison?

.....

Who named Saint Valentine as the patron of lovers?

.....

Do you celebrate Valentine's Day in your country?

.....

How do you celebrate it?

.....

Do you personally celebrate Valentine's Day? Why not?

.....

How do you celebrate it?

.....

What does it mean to you?

.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Answers for the teacher.

Answer the questions with whole sentences.

When do we celebrate Valentine's Day?
We celebrate Valentine's Day February 14.
Where is Valentine's Day celebrated?
It is celebrated all over the world.
What do people exchange?
They exchange flowers, chocolates, gifts, candies...
Why do they exchange these things?
To celebrate love and friendship.
Who was Saint Valentine?
He was a priest.
When did he live?
He lived about 200 A.D.
Why did Claudius forbid young man to marry?
Because he needed the young men for his army.
What did Saint Valentine do?
He married them secretly.
What was Claudius reaction when he found out what the priest was doing?
He put the priest in prison.
What happened when he was in jail, according to the legend?
He cured a girl from blindness.
When did he die?
On February, 14
According to another legend, why was he put in prison?
Because he didn't worship the Roman gods.
Why did the children love him?
Because he let them play in his garden.
What did the children do while he was in prison?
They exchanged notes with him and sent him flowers.
Who named Saint Valentine as the patron of lovers?
Pope Gelasius.

Do you celebrate Valentine's Day in your country?
.....
How do you celebrate it?
.....
Do you personally celebrate Valentine's Day? Why not?
.....
How do you celebrate it?
.....
What does it mean to you?
.....

Personal answer

LIVEWORKSHEETS