VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day, holiday (February 14) when lovers express their affection with greetings and gifts. Given their similarities, it has been suggested that the holiday has origins in the Roman festival of Lupercalia, held in mid-February. The festival, which celebrated the coming of spring, included fertility rites and the pairing off of women with men by lottery. At the end of the 5th century, the celebration of Lupercalia was forbidden. Valentine's Day did not come to be celebrated as a day of romance until about the 14th century.

Although there were several Christian martyrs named Valentine, the day may have taken its name from a priest who was martyred about 270 CE. According to legend, the priest signed a letter "from your Valentine" to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended and, by some accounts, healed from blindness. Other accounts hold that it was St. Valentine of Terni, a bishop, for whom the holiday was named, though it is possible the two saints were actually one person. Another common legend states that St. Valentine defied the emperor's orders and secretly married couples to spare the husbands from war. It is for this reason that his feast day is associated with love.

Formal messages, or valentines, appeared in the 1500s, and by the late 1700s commercially printed cards were being used. The first commercial valentines in the United States were printed in the mid-1800s. Valentines commonly depict Cupid, the Roman god of love, along with hearts, traditionally the seat of emotion. Because it was thought that the avian mating season begins in mid-February, birds also became a symbol of the day. Traditional gifts include candy and flowers, particularly red roses, a symbol of beauty and love.

The day is popular in the United States as well as in Britain, Canada, and Australia, and it is also celebrated in other countries, including Argentina, France, Mexico, and South Korea. In the Philippines it is the most common wedding anniversary, and mass weddings of hundreds of couples are not uncommon on that date. The holiday has expanded to expressions of affection among relatives and friends. Many schoolchildren exchange valentines with one another on this day.

Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

The first commercial valentines in the United States were printed in the mid-1800s.

Valentine's Day exclusively gained popularity in the United States and is not celebrated in other countries.

The tradition of exchanging valentines only dates back to the 1500s and was not practiced before then.

Red roses are traditionally associated with Valentine's Day as a symbol of beauty and love.

The origin of Valentine's Day can be definitively traced back to the Roman festival of Lupercalia, with no other possible influences.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Answer these questions.

What are some similarities between Valentine's Day and the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia?

What are some of the legends surrounding St Valentine?

How have the traditions and symbols associated with Valentine's Day evolved over time?

In what ways does Valentine's Day differ in its celebration and significance across different countries and cultures?

What to call your loved one? Try to unscramble these nicknames for lovers.

GAURS	NIDRAGL
AYBB	NELAG
OENYH	OBO
EVLO	NYDAC
GOEU LBV	MASODEHN
NPMUPIK	SERPINCS

Match each expression from column A with the one in column B that has a similar meaning.

A	B
tie the knot	go out with someone
snog	fancy someone
date someone	perfect fit
split up	get along
dig someone	have a serious relationship
go steady	smooch
hit it off	break up
a match made in heaven	fall in love
fall head over heels	get hitched

LIVEWORKSHEETS

What does it mean **to ghost someone**?	What do you consider a **red flag** when it comes to dating?
When do you think is the right time to **tie the knot**?	What would you do if you **knocked your partner up**?
Do you use **pick-up lines**? What are your favourites?	What would you do if your partner decided to **pop the question**?
What do you think about **snogging** in public places?	What would you do if you **fancied someone** in your class?
What does it mean **shack up with somebody**?	What's the longest **you've gone out with someone**?
What is the difference between **adoration** and **detest**?	How long after you **split up with someone** is it appropriate to start dating again?
Have you ever **got dumped by someone**?	Have you ever **had a crush on someone** famous?
Have you ever **ghosted** anyone?	Have you ever had to **break up with someone**?
Describe someone who would a **perfect fit** for you.	What do you think is the best **first date**?
What would you recommend to a couple that is **going through a bit of a rough patch**?	What do you think is the worst **first date**?
What do you consider a **green flag** when it comes to dating?	Do you believe in **love at first sight**?

LIVEWORKSHEETS