



SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY

Saint Valentine's Day, commonly shortened to Valentine's Day, is an annual commemoration held on February 14 celebrating love and affection between intimate companions. The day is named after one or more early Christian martyrs named Valentine and was established by Pope Gelasius I in 500 AD. It was deleted from the Roman calendar of saints in 1969 by Pope Paul VI, but its religious observance is still permitted.

It is traditionally a day on which lovers express their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "valentines"). The day first became associated with romantic love in the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished.

Modern Valentine's Day symbols include the heart-shaped outline, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid. Since the 19th century, handwritten valentines have given way to mass-produced greeting cards.

In the second half of the 20th century, the practice of exchanging cards was extended to all manner of gifts in the United States. Such gifts typically include roses and chocolates packed in a red satin, heart-shaped box. In the 1980's, the diamond industry began to promote Valentine's Day as an occasion for giving jewellery.

The U.S. Greeting Card Association estimates that approximately 190 million valentines are sent each year in the US. Half of those valentines are given to family members other than husband or wife, usually to children. When you include the valentine-exchange cards made in school activities the figure goes up to 1 billion, and teachers become the people receiving the most valentines. In some North American elementary schools, children decorate classrooms, exchange cards, and are given sweets. The greeting cards of these students sometimes mention what they appreciate about each other.

The rise of Internet popularity at the turn of the millennium is creating new traditions. Millions of people use, every year, digital means of creating and sending Valentine's Day greeting messages such as e-cards, love coupons or printable greeting cards.

Say whether the following statements are true or false.

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. Saint Valentine's Day is named after a specific Christian priest. | True | False |
| 2. Saint Valentine's Day was established by Pope Gelasius I in the 5 th century. | True | False |
| 3. Saint Valentine's Day was deleted from the Roman calendar of saints. | True | False |
| 4. Saint Valentine's Day first became associated with love in the Early Middle Ages. | True | False |
| 5. The first mass-produced Valentine cards emerged in the 19 th century. | True | False |
| 6. At the beginning of the 20 th century, Americans started to exchange all kind of gifts. | True | False |
| 7. The giving of jewellery began to be promoted in the late 90's. | True | False |
| 8. Americans send around 190 million Valentine cards each year. | True | False |
| 9. Children hardly ever receive Valentine cards. | True | False |
| 10. Teachers usually receive a lot of Valentine cards. | True | False |

Find synonyms in the text for the words below.

1. Abbreviated: _____
2. Close: _____
3. Sweets: _____
4. Presents: _____
5. Number: _____
6. Vouchers: _____