

# The History Of Valentines Day For Students



## The History of Saint Valentine's Day

### What is Valentine's Day?

On the 14th February each year, people around the world celebrate Saint Valentine's Day by expressing their love and friendship. This is done by sending flowers, gifts and cards. Other than Christmas, it is the one time in the year when the most amount of cards are sold.



Flowers and chocolates are often given as gifts on Valentine's Day.



An oil painting of Saint Valentine.

### When did Valentine's Day begin?

Nobody is exactly sure when Valentine's day started being celebrated. One of the most popular theories is that it began in Rome as early as 268 CE. Emperor Claudius II wanted to build a fierce army. He outlawed marriage amongst his soldiers as he felt that single men with no responsibilities made better fighters.

A brave priest named Valentius defied the Emperor, as he felt to deny love was wrong. He officiated marriages among the soldiers in secret.

Claudius was so angry when he found out, he imprisoned Valentius before executing him.

### The Legend of the First 'Valentine'

Whilst imprisoned by Emperor Claudius II, the legend claims that Valentius fell in love with his jailer's daughter, Julia. Before he was executed on 14th February, Valentius wrote Julia a love letter signed 'From your Valentine'. Allegedly, Julia planted pink and almond coloured flowers at Valentius' grave as these were symbols of friendship and love. Centuries after Valentius' death, the Catholic church canonised him and named him Saint Valentine. The date of his death and the message of love are now used as symbols of hope.



Colourful roses.

## The History of Valentine's Day for Students: More Than Just Candy and Cards

Valentine's Day. The day of hearts, chocolates, and romantic gestures. But have you ever stopped to wonder about the origins of this globally celebrated holiday? For students juggling exams, essays, and social lives, the history behind Valentine's Day might seem like a distant concern. However, understanding its rich and often surprising past adds a fascinating layer to this seemingly simple

celebration. This blog post dives into the history of Valentine's Day, specifically tailored for students, offering a concise yet comprehensive overview perfect for research papers, presentations, or just satisfying your curiosity. We'll explore the various theories surrounding its origins, its evolution through the centuries, and how it transformed into the commercialized holiday we know today.

## **H2: The Murky Origins: Unraveling the Mysteries of St. Valentine**

The very first question we must tackle is: who was St. Valentine? Unfortunately, pinpointing a single, definitive St. Valentine is incredibly difficult. Several martyrs named Valentine existed in early Christian history, making it hard to definitively link the holiday to a specific individual. This ambiguity has fueled numerous legends and theories, adding to the holiday's mystique. One popular theory points to a priest named Valentine who defied Emperor Claudius II's ban on marriages for young men, secretly performing wedding ceremonies for couples. Another legend suggests Valentine was a Roman who was imprisoned for helping Christians escape persecution and later became a saint.

## **H2: From Roman Pagan Festivals to Christian Saint's Day:**

Before Christianity's influence, Roman festivals like Lupercalia, a fertility festival held in mid-February, likely played a role in shaping Valentine's Day traditions. Lupercalia involved rituals, animal sacrifices, and a lottery where young men drew the names of women to be their partners for the year. This suggests early parallels to the pairing and romantic associations we see in modern Valentine's Day. The transition from pagan festivals to a Christian saint's day is gradual and not fully understood, highlighting the intricate intertwining of historical and cultural influences. The church, possibly attempting to supplant pagan celebrations with Christian ones, likely adopted February 14th as a day to honor St. Valentine, subtly merging existing traditions with new religious meaning.

## **H2: The Evolution of Valentine's Day Traditions:**

The association of Valentine's Day with romantic love began to solidify in the Middle Ages. Geoffrey Chaucer's *Parliament of Fowles*, written in 1382, linked February 14th with birds choosing their mates, further entrenching the idea of romantic pairing with the holiday. The exchange of love letters and tokens also gained popularity during this period, setting the stage for the modern tradition of Valentine's cards and gifts. This gradual evolution transformed the day from a potentially obscure saint's day to a widely celebrated festival of love and affection.

### **H3: The Rise of the Valentine's Day Card:**

The printing press played a pivotal role in popularizing Valentine's Day. Mass-produced cards became affordable and readily available, making it easier for people to express their feelings to loved ones. The Victorian era saw a significant surge in the popularity of intricately designed and sentimental Valentine's Day cards, solidifying the holiday's commercial aspect. These cards, often adorned with elaborate artwork and heartfelt messages, became important artifacts reflecting societal attitudes and cultural trends of the time.

## **H2: Valentine's Day in the Modern Era: Commercialization and Global Reach:**

Today, Valentine's Day is a global commercial phenomenon. The industry surrounding the holiday generates billions of dollars annually, driven by the sale of chocolates, flowers, cards, jewelry, and romantic experiences. While the commercialization has arguably diluted some of the holiday's original meaning, it has also made it accessible and celebratory for a vast global population. This highlights the fascinating interplay between tradition, cultural adaptation, and commercial interests in shaping modern celebrations.

## **H2: Valentine's Day: A Celebration of Love in Diverse Forms**

Importantly, while the romantic aspect dominates modern Valentine's Day celebrations, it's essential to remember that love extends far beyond romantic partnerships. The holiday is also a wonderful opportunity to celebrate platonic love, familial bonds, and friendships. Expressing appreciation for the people who enrich our lives is a valuable aspect of the holiday, regardless of the nature of the relationship.

## **Conclusion:**

The history of Valentine's Day is a captivating journey through religious beliefs, pagan rituals, literary influences, and commercial transformations. While its precise origins remain somewhat shrouded in mystery, the evolution of this holiday offers a unique perspective on the interplay of culture, history, and commercialization. Understanding this rich past allows us to appreciate the multifaceted nature of Valentine's Day and celebrate it with a more informed perspective.

FAQs:

1. Is there a definitive historical figure who is the "true" St. Valentine? No, the identity of St. Valentine is uncertain due to the existence of multiple early Christian martyrs with that name. Several competing legends exist.
2. What role did Lupercalia play in the development of Valentine's Day? Lupercalia, a Roman fertility festival, is believed to have influenced some of the romantic and pairing aspects of early Valentine's Day celebrations.
3. When did Valentine's Day cards become popular? Mass-produced Valentine's Day cards gained popularity with the advent of the printing press, significantly increasing during the Victorian era.
4. How has the commercialization of Valentine's Day impacted its cultural significance? Commercialization has made the holiday more accessible globally, but some argue it has diluted its original meaning, shifting focus from religious or historical significance to commercial transactions.
5. How can I celebrate Valentine's Day beyond romantic relationships? Express appreciation for friends, family members, and other important people in your life. Acts of kindness, thoughtful gestures, and heartfelt expressions of gratitude are powerful ways to celebrate diverse forms of love.

**the history of valentines day for students:** How to Help a Cupid Sue Fliess, 2022-01-04  
Valentine's Day is all about showing kindness to the most important people in your life—and if you're caring and thoughtful, you can help Cupid spread love and happiness, too! Will you spot a Cupid this Valentine's day? If you do, will you be ready to help him spread love and kindness? By being observant, helpful, and friendly, you can lend Cupid a hand, and together you can make special cards and gifts to show all your favorite people how much they mean to you. So, grab some supplies—stickers, markers, crayons, colored paper, glue, and whatever else you like (it's the thought that counts on Valentine's Day!)—and think of heartfelt messages to share with your loved ones. Then be ready to meet Cupid and work together to spread cheer and happiness! Sue Fliess's poetic read-aloud text and Simona Sanfilippo's vibrant, whimsical illustrations will provide joy for young readers eager to help Cupid share the love! Also included are guides for teachers and parents about how to engage children in making Valentine's Day cards and how to interest them in the history of the holiday, the mythology behind the winged messenger Cupid, and the value of being thoughtful and kind to everyone.

**the history of valentines day for students:** *The Story of Valentine's Day* Clyde Robert Bulla, 2000-01-05  
Relates the history and describes the customs of this holiday from its beginning in Roman times to the present. Includes directions for making a paper valentine and sugar cookies.

**the history of valentines day for students:** Today is Valentine's Day! Econo-Clad Books, P. K. Hallinan, 1994  
A child describes Valentine's Day at school and the special cards the children give and receive.

**the history of valentines day for students:** *My Bedtime Stories* , 2013-04-12

**the history of valentines day for students:** *A Short History of Valentine's Day* Sally Lee, 2015-08  
Young readers learn about the early traditions which have led to our present-day celebration of Valentine's Day.

**the history of valentines day for students:** **Just Go to Bed (Little Critter)** Mercer Mayer, 2021-02-02  
It's time to sleep with this hilarious and adorable bedtime story featuring Little Critter! Perfect for parents to read aloud with their toddlers. Little Critter is not looking forward to bedtime. Whether it's time for him to stop playing and take a bath, or making a fuss about getting into his jammies, both parents and children alike will relate to this beloved story. A great way to introduce children to their very own bedtime routine!

**the history of valentines day for students:** Saint Valentine Robert Sabuda, 2009-08  
In

ancient Rome there lived a humble man named Valentine. He was a physician, but he was also a Christian priest whose life and freedom were in constant danger in a city of people who believed in many gods, not just one. One day a jailer from the emperor's prison appeared at Valentine's door with his small child, a girl who was blind. Knowing the difficulty of curing blindness, Valentine vowed to do his best, and over the weeks of treatment and prayer the three became fast friends. Here, accompanied by Sabuda's full-color mosaics evoking the time period in which the story takes place, is the story of a man whose goodness and faith brought about a miracle, and whose name lives on in one of our most celebrated holidays. Reinforced binding.

**the history of valentines day for students:** *Happy Valentine's Day, Mouse!* Laura Numeroff, 2009-11-24 Join Mouse from If You Give a Mouse a Cookie as he celebrates Valentine's Day with all the friends he loves.

**the history of valentines day for students:** *Saint Valentine* Ann Tompert, 2004 Retells some of the legends associated with Saint Valentine, a third-century Christian priest who was executed during the reign of the Roman Emperor Claudius II.

**the history of valentines day for students:** *The Runaway Wok* Ying Chang Compestine, 2011-01-06 When a boy goes to the market to buy food and comes home with an old wok instead, his parents wonder what they'll eat for dinner. But then the wok rolls out of the poor family's house with a skippity-hoppity-ho! and returns from the rich man's home with a feast in tow! With spirited text and lively illustrations, this story reminds readers about the importance of generosity.

**the history of valentines day for students:** *Valentine's Day* Kathryn A. Imler, 2008 Presents background information on the origins of customs related to the celebration of St. Valentine's Day.

**the history of valentines day for students:** *Story Of Valentines Day* Nancy J. Skaermas, 2013-08-15 The story of Valentine's Day for young readers, now in a new size. Here is a little board book that explains in simple terms the story of the origin of Valentine's Day. From today's celebrations to their link to the day's beginnings, the holiday of valentines and candy hearts is explained so that even the youngest reader will understand. A new, convenient size and vibrant art make this board book a wonderful Valentine's Day gift for little hands to grasp. Ages 2-5.

**the history of valentines day for students:** *The 12 Days of Valentine's* Jenna Lettice, 2017-12-26 Count the 12 days leading up to Valentine's Day with this fun-filled picture book inspired by "The 12 Days of Christmas"—perfect for fans of Natasha Wing's "The Night Before" series. The first day of Valentine's starts with ONE warm, fuzzy hug. On the second day, the crafts begin with TWO cups of sparkles. On the third day, let's make our cards with THREE pink pens! Each of the 12 busy days leading up to Valentine's Day are celebrated in this cumulative rhyming storybook based on "The 12 Days of Christmas." Kids will love spotting all the fun ways a family gets ready for Valentine's Day! Also available: *The 12 Days of Kindergarten*, *The 12 Days of Halloween*, and *The 12 Days of Preschool*. will be a fast favorite with the preschool and kindergarten sets.—ReadBrightly.com

**the history of valentines day for students:** *Happy Valentine's Day!* Elizabeth Ritter, 2016-12-15 Valentine's Day is a holiday that celebrates love and friendship. This book explores how one little boy prepares for and celebrates Valentine's Day with his family and friends. Readers follow the relatable main character as he makes cards and cupcakes at home, and shares snacks and songs at school. This book is filled with beautiful illustrations, and the low-level text is perfect for early readers. Children of all ages will enjoy this Valentine's Day celebration.

**the history of valentines day for students:** *Valensteins* Ethan Long, 2017-12-19 Something strange is in the air on this dark, cold night. The members of Fright Club are always ready to scare, but tonight Fran K. Stein has something else on his mind. He's busy making something, and the other monsters want to know what it is. Could it be a mask with fangs? A big pink nose? Or maybe a paper butt? No . . . it's a Valentine! That means one thing . . . EEEEEK!! Is Fran in love? What could be scarier than falling in love?!? In this hilariously spooky story by Geisel Award-winning author and illustrator Ethan Long, even the scariest of monsters have true feelings.

**the history of valentines day for students:** *The parlament of foules* Geoffrey Chaucer,

**the history of valentines day for students: The Legend of the Valentine** Katherine Grace Bond, Don Tate, 2001 On Valentine's Day during the sixties, Marcus, an African-American boy in a newly integrated school, uses St. Valentine as a role model to heal the hate in his classroom.

**the history of valentines day for students: What Is Valentine's Day?** Elaine Landau, 2012-01-01 Provides information about how Valentine's Day is celebrated, popular symbols of the holiday, and a brief history. A Valentine's Day activity is included--Provided by publisher.

**the history of valentines day for students: The Runaway Valentine** Tina Casey, 2001 Victor, a valentine card eager to be brought home, is overlooked until he marches out of the store and into the street, where he proves helpful to one person after another.

**the history of valentines day for students: Celebrate Valentine's Day** Carolyn Otto, 2008 Discusses the history and traditions of Valentine's Day on February 14th as a celebration of friendship, affection, sweethearts, and love. Includes information on how the holiday is celebrated in various places around the world. Also includes recipe for Great-grandmother's sugar cookies.

**the history of valentines day for students: If You'll Be My Valentine** Cynthia Rylant, 2004-12-14 A little boy gives Valentines out to friends, family, and members of the natural world.

**the history of valentines day for students: The Littlest Valentine** Brandi Dougherty, 2017 Emma may be the littlest in the Valentine family, but she knows that she has what it takes to help the family business get ready for the holiday. But Emma just can't seem to do things the right way like the bigger members of her family, no matter how hard she tries. Will Emma find a way to help her family on Valentine's Day, or is the littlest Valentine just too little?

**the history of valentines day for students: Happy Valentine's Day, Curious George!** N. Di Angelo, Hans Augusto Rey, 2010 Curious George, the mischievous monkey, and his friends celebrate Valentine's Day with decorating, baking, card making, and some unexpected hilarity.

**the history of valentines day for students: A Crankenstein Valentine** Samantha Berger, 2015-02-03 Even the crankiest monsters have hearts in this Valentine tale from fan favorite author Samantha Berger and Caldecott medalist illustrator Dan Santat. Cheesy cards, allergy-inducing bouquets, and heart-shaped everything? YECHHHH! It's enough to turn anyone into a monster! An ordinary kid becomes Crankenstein on the most lovey-dovey, yuckiest day of the year: Valentine's Day. Can Crankenstein find a way to turn his sour day sweet? Can a monster find a little love in his heart? Find out in the monstrously funny A Crankenstein Valentine.

**the history of valentines day for students: Valentine's Day Jitters** Julie Danneberg, 2021-12-14 In this installment of the best-selling Jitters series, Mrs. Hartwell is planning the perfect Valentine's Day party for her class, complete with crafts, games, and a super-big, super-complicated cake! What could possibly go wrong? Everyone's favorite teacher has the jitters again! Sarah Jane Hartwell is determined to host the perfect Valentine's Day party to show her students how much she cares. But no matter how hard she tries, nothing goes according to plan. From pin-the-smile-on-the-teacher to crafts with glitter, glue, ribbons, and lace, the class quickly devolves into chaos. Mrs. Hartwell feels like the event is a disaster, but the students have a great time! Not only do they already know that she cares, it turns out they care a lot about her as well.

**the history of valentines day for students: Love from the Crayons** Drew Daywalt, 2021-08-05 Celebrate Valentine's Day - and love - with the number 1 bestselling Crayons!

**the history of valentines day for students: Roses Are Pink, Your Feet Really Stink** Diane deGroat, 1997-01-20 When Gilbert writes two not-so-nice valentines to his classmates, his prank quickly turns into pandemonium. But there's always time for a change of heart on Valentine's Day.

**the history of valentines day for students: Valentine's Day Disaster (Geronimo Stilton #23)** Geronimo Stilton, 2011-11-01 Enter the world of Geronimo Stilton, where another funny adventure is always right around the corner. Each book is a fast-paced adventure with lively art and a unique format kids 7-10 will love. It was Valentine's Day in New Mouse City, and I couldn't wait to celebrate! I had sent valentine cards to all my friends and family members. But when I opened my mailbox on the morning of February 14th, it was empty! Had everyone forgotten about me? Was I

destined to spend Valentine's Day alone in my mousehole, sobbing, with only my pet fish to console me? It was starting to look like a true Valentine's Day disaster!

**the history of valentines day for students: American Minute** William J. Federer, 2003-05 This is an interesting and inspiring collection of history vignettes, one for each day of the year. Well-known national holidays and achievements are recalled in detail as well as facts of courage, sacrifice, and captivating American trivia.

**the history of valentines day for students: Love the World** Todd Parr, 2017-09-26 From New York Times bestselling author Todd Parr comes a celebration of love, respect, peace, and unity. With his colorful illustrations, playful humor, and inclusive storytelling, beloved author Todd Parr has long been a favorite among young readers and caregivers. His books promote an essential message of love and acceptance that is inspiring, empowering, and accessible. Love your grin. Love your skin. Love the bees. Love the trees. Love giving a hand. Love taking a stand. LOVE YOURSELF. LOVE THE WORLD! What the world needs now is love—and who better than Todd Parr to share a message of kindness, charity, and acceptance. Touching upon themes including self-esteem, environmentalism, and respect for others, Todd uses his signature silly and accessible style to encourage readers to show love for themselves and all the people, places, and things they encounter.

**the history of valentines day for students: Christmas at Highclere** The Countess of Carnarvon, 2019-09-05 Highclere Castle, known as 'the real Downton Abbey' bustles with activity at the best of times, but it is never more alive than at Christmas. Christmas at Highclere is a look behind the scenes at the routines and rituals that make the castle the most magical place to be throughout the festive season. Lady Carnarvon will guide you through Advent, Christmas preparations and Christmas Eve all the way through to the day itself, and beyond. Learn how the castle and grounds are transformed by decorations, including the raising of a twenty-foot tree in the saloon, the gathering of holly and mistletoe from the grounds. All the intricacies of the perfect traditional Christmas are here: from crackers and carol singers. The festive feeling is carried through to Highclere's Boxing Day traditions, the restorative middle days and the New Year's Eve celebrations. This book also tells the story of historic Christmases at Highclere - of distinguished guests warming themselves by the fire after a long journeys home through the snow, unexpected knocks on the door, and, always, the joy of bringing family - and staff - together after a busy year. As well as telling the stories of Highclere Christmases past and present, Lady Carnarvon provides recipes, tips and inspiration from her kitchen so that readers can bring a quintessentially British festive spirit to their own home. Lady Carnarvon divulges the secret to perfectly flakey mince pies, the proper way to wrap presents so that you and your guests are guaranteed a Christmas to remember. Lavish, celebratory and utterly enchanting, Christmas at Highclere is celebration of one of the UK's most beloved historic houses and is the perfect gift for any Downton Abbey fan.

**the history of valentines day for students: Presidents' Day Activities** Teacher Created Materials, 1996

**the history of valentines day for students: Love from Dr. Seuss** Seuss, 2019-01-21 The perfect collection of lines about love, from the one and only Dr. Seuss! One Love, Two Love, I Love, You Love! Love, live and laugh with Dr. Seuss in this sweet selection of lovely lines and unforgettable illustrations! Full of inspiration and love from his countless classics, this is the perfect collection for every occasion, sent to you love from Dr. Seuss... The perfect gift for Valentine's Day, anniversaries, proposals, and just bringing the love to every day!

**the history of valentines day for students: Happy Valentine's Day** Elizabeth Bennett, 2016-11-29 Hello Kitty can't wait for Valentine's day!

**the history of valentines day for students: The Story of St. Valentine** Voice of the Martyrs, 2007-09-01

**the history of valentines day for students: Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch** Eileen Spinelli, 2006 Lonely Mr. Hatch has a secret admirer. When he discovers who his admirer is, he gets the biggest surprise of his life. Full color.

**the history of valentines day for students: 11 Paper Hearts** Kelsey Hartwell, 2021-01-05 A

romance about a girl who follows a trail of paper hearts from her secret admirer and learns that sometimes love can find you in mysterious ways. Ella's life was picture perfect. She had a circle of close friends, a jam-packed social life, and an amazing boyfriend. But then something completely unexpected happened: a car accident after a Valentine's Day dance. When Ella woke up in the hospital, she couldn't remember the accident . . . or anything about the weeks before it, including the reason she broke up with her boyfriend. Now, a year later, she begins receiving paper hearts from a mysterious admirer who seems to have the answers she craves. Ella is intrigued. The hearts contain clues to help Ella remember her life before . . . and take her on a journey she never imagined. Following the paper hearts is the most spontaneous thing Ella has ever done . . . but will she find love? Underlined is a line of totally addictive romance, thriller, and horror paperback original titles coming to you fast and furious each month. Enjoy everything you want to read the way you want to read it.

**the history of valentines day for students: Clifford's First Valentine's Day** Norman Bridwell, 2009 It's going to be a BIG Valentine's Day! Clifford has always innocently gotten into trouble, even as a puppy! This time, he's helping Emily Elizabeth make a special valentine for her grandma. When it comes time to mail it, Clifford falls into the mail cart and gets an unexpected behind-the-scenes tour of the Post Office!

**the history of valentines day for students: The Living Page** Laurie Bestvater, 2013-10-16 We all have need to be trained to see, and to have our eyes opened before we can take in the joy that is meant for us in this beautiful life. Charlotte Mason ~~~~~ Composition books and blank journals are readily available at every big box and corner store, available so inexpensively as to be common and ironic as we reach that digital dominion, the projected 'paperless culture.' Shall we despair the future of the notebook? Is the practice an anachronism in an age where one's thoughts and pictures, doings and strivings are so easily recorded on a smartphone or blog, and students in even the youngest classrooms are handed electronic tablets with textbooks loaded and worksheets at the ready? Or is there something indispensable in the keeping of notebooks without which human beings would be the poorer? THE LIVING PAGE invites the reader to take a closer look in the timeless company of 19th century educator, Charlotte Mason.

**the history of valentines day for students: Valentine's Day** , 2013 Description: TV Still (Programme).

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