

A close-up photograph of a Valentine's Day gift. The gift is wrapped in white paper with a red and white striped ribbon. A large red ribbon is tied around the box. Three vibrant red roses are arranged around the gift. A white card with a red border is placed on top of the gift, featuring the text "happy Valentine's day" in a red, cursive font, followed by a small red heart icon. To the right of the card is a red, heart-shaped ornament covered in fine, shimmering red sequins. The background is a solid red surface, and there are blurred lights in the upper right corner.

happy
Valentine's
day ♥



St. Valentine's Day

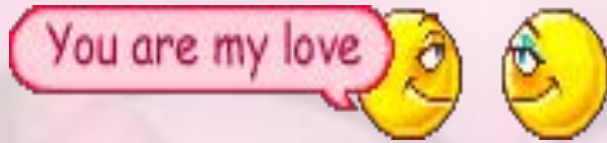
It is celebrated on the 14th of February. This holiday has its story about two sweethearts, that's why it's called the day of all sweethearts.

On Valentine's day people send cards or give flowers or chocolates to the person they love.

Usually, a Valentine's card is not signed by the person who sends it, so the person who receives it has to guess who it is from.

Valentine's Symbols





*I'll be your sweetheart, if you will be mine,
All of my life I' ll be your Valentine.*



On this day many people make a declaration of love and propose marriage. And if they've already found their love, they just remind about it and make surprises or give presents to each other.



Do You Know That ?



- ♥ St. Valentine's Day is celebrated as a festival of romance and affection.
- ♥ St. Valentine's Day is not a public but a religious holiday, schools, banks, shops are open as usual.
- ♥ All the decorations are bright red, the most popular ones are heart-shaped.
- ♥ Red is the colour most often used in valentines because it's a symbol of warmth and feelings.
- ♥ The symbol of Valentine's Day is a cupid with arrows and a bow.
- ♥ People often organize romantic parties with candles, romantic music, games, dances.



Legends of Valentine's Day



One legend says that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those married, he outlawed marriage for young men.

Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. And Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death, which probably occurred around 270 A.D.

According to another legend, Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting himself. While in prison, Valentine fell in love with a young girl, his jailor's daughter, who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, he wrote her a letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine,' an expression that is still in use today. Legends usually says that Valentine was a sympathetic, heroic, and romantic person. In the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.

Traditions of celebrating St. Valentine's Day in different countries

Each country has its own traditions of celebrating St. Valentine's Day and people from different countries celebrate it in different ways.



In Germany the celebration of St. Valentine's Day is quite recent.

This day is really aimed towards adults only; children at schools do not exchange little heart shaped cards, as in other countries. It is a strictly "adult matter".

There is a curious twist to Valentine's symbols in Germany: little pigs offering flowers.

There is another interesting attribute of Valentine's Day in Germany – the big ginger cookies, made in the shape of a heart and decorated with frosting.



The French invented a particular Valentine's Day custom called 'drawing for'. Unmarried people gathered in houses facing each other and called the name of their chosen partner through the windows.

It all seemed very romantic, but the charm was spoilt when the man decided his choice didn't come up to scratch and proceeded to desert his Valentine. Naturally, the women retaliated and the custom developed of building a huge bonfire where they burnt the image of the now hated male while yelling abuse. It became a rather embarrassing heated event, so was wisely banned by the French Government.

Nowadays French people present their sweethearts with perfume, jewelry and ties.



QUIZ

