

Valentine's Day

Target audience (age): Ensino Médio

Aim: getting to know the origin of the celebration and its cultural aspects

Duration: 50 minutes

Organization: individual work

Material: activity worksheets

Preparation: make copies of the worksheets

Procedure:

- Warm up students by asking them what they already know about the celebration.
- Have a discussion on the cultural aspects of the date and if they know in which countries it's celebrated.
- Give away the copies of the worksheets.
- Ask students to read the text and check understanding.
- Ask students to do the exercises and help them if necessary.
- Correct the exercises on the board.

Wrap up activity

- Tell students to show their cards to a friend.

VALENTINE'S DAY ACTIVITY

1. Read the text.

Date and meaning of Valentine's Day

Valentine's day is celebrated on February 14th in many countries all over the world. It's the celebration of love. Not only the romantic love, but also the love for friends and family.

The origin of Valentine's Day

This celebration started more than two thousand years ago, on February 15th, as a winter festival in Britain. On that day, people asked their gods to give them a good harvest and strong animals.

The story

When the Romans came to Britain, they brought the story of Saint Valentine. They told that there was a Christian man called Valentine who lived in Rome. At that time, the emperor of Rome was Claudius the Second, who wasn't a Christian. He didn't want his soldiers to be married, because he believed that they wouldn't concentrate on the battles. So, he forbid all his soldiers to marry.

Valentine worked for the church and one day helped a soldier who wanted to marry. Claudius, the emperor, said he had to die and sent him to prison. While in prison, Valentine fell in love with the daughter of a man who worked there. Just before he died, he wrote a love note to this girl and, at the end of the note he signed "Your Valentine". He died on February 14th.

The story of Saint Valentine became so popular in Britain that they changed the date of the winter festival from February 15th to 14th and its name became Saint Valentine's Day.

In the early nineteenth century people started to give Valentine cards to the ones they loved and also presents as flowers or candy.

Valentine's Day today

Nowadays, restaurants, cafeterias and shops get ready for Valentine's Day by using theme related decorations as hearts, flowers or birds. It's a good way to improve sales after Christmas. People still exchange gifts and cards with romantic messages and it's a popular wedding date.

2. Choose the best title for each section of the text and write.

- Valentine's Day today
- Date and meaning of Valentine's Day
- The origin of Valentine's Day
- The story

3. Match the beginnings to the endings of the sentences.

- | | |
|---|--|
| a) Saint Valentine was a Christian who... | (b) he helped a soldier get married. |
| b) He was arrested because... | (a) lived in Rome. |
| c) Emperor Claudius didn't want... | (e) love in all its forms. |
| d) He died... | (c) his soldiers to get married. |
| e) On Valentine's Day, we celebrate... | (d) on February 14th. |

4. Answer the questions.

a) Is there a similar date in Brazil? How is it similar and how is it different?

Answers may vary, but should mention Dia dos Namorados on June 12th, which is also a celebration of love, but only romantic love.

b) Who would you give a Valentine card to? What would you write in it? *Answers may vary.*



Name _____ Date __/__/__

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b) Who would you give a Valentine card to? What would you write in it?

