

## Valentine's Day

1. Do you celebrate Valentine's Day in your country? If so, how?
2. When you think of the Western Valentine's Day, what symbols, people or activities do you associate with it?
3. Who might you give gifts to on Valentine's Day? What kinds of gifts would you give?
4. Who might you receive gifts from on Valentine's Day? What kinds of gifts would you like to receive?
5. Imagine a perfect Valentine's Day. Who would you be with? Where would you go? What would you do? How would you feel? Describe the worst Valentine's Day or romantic date you have ever had.
6. How do the following types of love differ?
  - a parent's love for a child?
  - a child's love for a pet?
  - a boyfriend's love for a girlfriend?
  - a wife's love for her husband, or a husband's love for his wife?
  - a grandchild's love for a grandparent?
7. What are some ways in which you show your love for others and in which others show their love for you daily, not just on Valentine's Day?
8. Do you know the story about Valentine's Day? Read the following, then re-tell it in your group.

*Stories about the origin of Valentine's Day abound. One popular legend traces the holiday back almost 2000 years. The Roman emperor Claudius made it illegal for young men to get married without his permission because he thought marriages and families were the reasons the young men would not go to war. One priest, St. Valentine, defied the emperor's command and secretly performed marriages. When Claudius found out, he had Valentine thrown in jail. Then, on February 14, Valentine was executed. About two centuries later, the church named February 14 Valentine's Day in his honour. Today, people give flowers, candy, cards, and gifts on this special day.*

9. If you could change Valentine's Day, what would you do differently?
10. What other famous love stories do you know from your native literature? In western literature?
11. What will you do this year for Valentine's Day?
12. Imagine you are spending Valentine's day with your significant other. Rank the following Valentine's Day dates from the best to the worst. Explain why. What should be on the list?

Go to a movie	Have a romantic dinner	Go dancing	Try something new
Go to an escape room	Enjoy a karaoke date	Stay at home	A romantic getaway

### Did you know that:

- Teachers receive the most Valentine's Day cards, followed by children, mothers, wives, and then, sweethearts.
- 15% of U.S. women send themselves flowers on Valentine's Day.
- About 3% of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets.
- Cupid, another symbol of Valentine's Day, became associated with it because he was the son of Venus, the Roman god of love and beauty. Cupid often appears on Valentine cards holding a bow and arrows because he is believed to use magical arrows to inspire feelings of love.
- In the United States, 64% of men do not make plans in advance for a romantic Valentine's Day with their sweethearts.
- 70% of those celebrating the holiday give a card, followed by a telephone call (49%), gift (48%), special dinner (37%), candy (33%) restaurant meal (30%), and flowers (19%)