

Valentine's Day brings love to all

Valentine's Day fun facts

- * Approximately 1 billion valentine cards are sent each year; 2.6 billion are sent at Christmas
- * In order of popularity, Valentine's Day cards are given to: teachers, children, mothers, wives and sweethearts.
- * 75 percent of all Americans exchange Valentine's Day cards. Valentine's Day is the second most popular day for men to buy cards (Mother's Day is No.1).
- * 15 percent of all U.S. women send themselves flowers.
- * 3 percent of pet owners give their pets valentine cards and gifts.
- * Alexander Graham Bell applied for his patent on the telephone, an "Improvement in Telegraphy," on Valentine's Day 1876.
- * Hallmark has more than 1300 different cards specifically for Valentine's Day.
- * Wearing a wedding ring on the fourth finger of the left hand dates back to ancient Egypt, where it was believed that the vein of love ran from this finger directly to the heart.
- * In the middle ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. To wear your heart on your sleeve means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.
- * Some people used to believe that if a woman saw a robin flying overhead on Valentine's Day, it meant that she would marry a sailor. If she saw a sparrow, she would marry a poor man and be very happy. If she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a millionaire.
- * Think of five or six names of boys or girls you might marry. As you twist the stem of an apple, recite the names until the stem comes off. You will marry the person whose name you were saying when the stem fell off.
- * In Wales, wooden love spoons were carved and given as gifts on Feb. 14. Hearts, keys and keyholes were favorite decorations on the spoons. The decoration meant "You unlock my heart."
- * A love seat is a wide chair. It was first made to seat one woman and her wide dress. Later, the love seat, or courting seat, had two sections, often in an S-shape. In this way a couple could sit together - but not too closely!



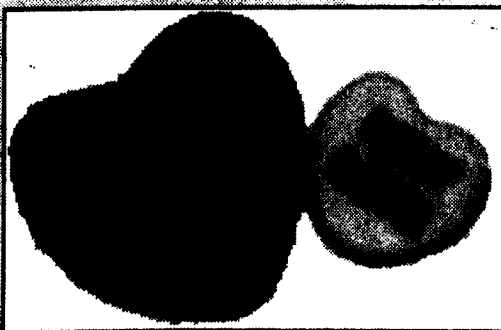
* Historians claim that the first valentine was a poem sent in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London at the time.

- * In the United States, Miss Esther Howland is given credit for sending the first Valentine's Day card. Commercial valentines were introduced in the 1880s and now the day is very commercialized.
- * Richard Cadbury invented the first Valentine's Day candy box in the late 1800s.
- * In Japan, Valentine's Day is a day when women give the special men in their lives boxes of chocolate. To balance the practice, White Day was invented by the confectionary industry for men to reciprocate such gifts. White Day, celebrated one month later on March 14, is purely a Japanese creation.
- * The Chocolate Manufacturer's Association of America says that 36 million boxes of chocolate are sold for Valentine's Day.
- * Valentine's Day means chocolate and lots of it. According to U.S. candy manufacturers, Americans spend more than \$1.105 million each Valentine's Day on candy.
- * In the United States, 64 percent of men do not make plans in advance for a romantic Valentine's Day with their sweethearts.

2004 Sweetheart Sayings

The new sayings promote sweet dreams and new beginnings:

- *3 Wishes
- *Ever After
- *New You
- *Magic
- *Dream
- *Charm Me
- *Start Now
- *New Love
- *IM Me
- *I (heartshape) You



The birth of Cupid

According to Roman mythology, Cupid was the son of Venus, the goddess of love and beauty. Cupid was known to cause people to fall in love by shooting them with his magical arrows. But Cupid didn't just cause others to fall in love - he himself fell deeply in love.

As legend has it, Cupid fell in love with a mortal maiden named Psyche. Cupid married Psyche, but Venus, jealous of Psyche's beauty, forbade her daughter-in-law to look at Cupid. Psyche, of course, couldn't resist temptation and sneaked a peek at her handsome husband. As punishment, Venus demanded that she perform three hard tasks, the last of which caused Psyche's death.

Cupid brought Psyche back to life and the gods, moved by their love, granted Psyche immortality. Cupid thus represents the heart and Psyche the (struggles of the) human soul.

Top Romantic U.S. Get Aways

10. Napa Valley, Calif.
9. Martha's Vineyard, Mass.
8. Lake Tahoe, NV.
7. Aspen, Colo.
6. New Orleans
5. Las Vegas
4. Miami
3. San Francisco
2. New York City
1. Islands of Hawaii



"Love is composed of a single soul inhabiting two bodies."

--Aristotle

Top Romance Sellers

10. "Murphy's Romance"
9. "Marilyn Monroe: The Diamond Collection Box Set"
8. "The Truth About Cats and Dogs"
7. "Don Juan de Marco"
6. "Joe Versus the Volcano"
5. "One Crazy Summer"
4. "My Best Friend's Wedding"
3. "Benny & Joon"
2. "Groundhog Day"
1. "The Princess Bride"

The history of Valentine's Day

The origins of Valentine's Day trace back to the ancient Roman celebration of Lupercalia. Held on Feb. 15, Lupercalia honored the gods Lupercus and Faunus, as well as the legendary founders of Rome, Romulus and Remus.

In addition to a bountiful feast, Lupercalia festivities are purported to have included the pairing of young women and men. Men would draw women's names from a box, and each couple would be paired until next year's celebration.

While this pairing of couples set the tone for today's holiday, it wasn't called "Valentine's Day" until a priest named Valentine came along. Valentine, a romantic at heart, disobeyed Emperor Claudius II's decree that soldiers remain bachelors. Claudius handed down this decree believing that soldiers would be distracted and unable to concentrate on fighting if they were married or engaged. Valentine defied the emperor and secretly performed marriage ceremonies. As a result of his defiance, Valentine was put to death on Feb. 14.

After Valentine's death, he was named a saint. As Christianity spread through Rome, the priests moved Lupercalia from Feb. 15 to Feb. 14 and renamed it St. Valentine's Day to honor Valentine.

- Sources:
- [http://movies.yahoo.com/shop?d=vb&cf=browse&id=1800000057;](http://movies.yahoo.com/shop?d=vb&cf=browse&id=1800000057)
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 - [http://mydearvalentine.dgreetings.com/valentine/idea-tips/index.html.](http://mydearvalentine.dgreetings.com/valentine/idea-tips/index.html)

Valentine's Day ideas

- * Leave a small note saying "I LOVE YOU" beside his/her pillow to make his/her day begin with some romance in the air.
- * Prepare a Valentine cake in the shape of heart.
- * Take him/her out for a long romantic drive.
- * Send bouquet of roses with a love note.
- * Leave a small gift hidden in some corner of home with clues to its whereabouts.
- * Don't buy a card, rather make it yourself.
- * Go dancing together.
- * Buy a nice set of lingerie/briefs.
- * Write a sincere, wonderful love letter.
- * Give her/him a nice sensuous massage.
- * Kiss and hug your him/her often.
- * List down 25 things that you like about your sweetheart and 50 things that you don't like. (Count yourself lucky if the second list does not exceed 10, but kick yourself in the @\$\$\$ if you manage to list 50).
- * Confess your love.
- * Sketch something for your sweetie pie.
- * Cook a special dish (If it's your first attempt, keep those antacids handy).
- * Just take time out to express your feelings, thoughts, fears and even fantasies to him/her.
- * Take a long walk holding each other's hands.
- * Brush or comb her/his hair.
- * Read out romantic/erotic poetry to your valentine.
- * Start saving for a special holiday fund for the two of you
- * Make New Year resolutions together (though it's kinda late for that) and try to follow them.
- * Exchange a list containing each other's likes and dislikes.
- * Visit a place where you've always wanted to go, but never got the chance.
- * Have video game competitions at the arcades.
- * And finally, whatever you do, just let your hair and your defenses down, and enjoy each other's company.

A to Z passion play

- Apply massage oil to your lover's back while giving a sensual massage.
- Bring a single red rose to trace down your partner's body on your next sensual encounter.
- Cuddle often.
- Dance seductively under the moonlight.
- Engage in a loving embrace.
- Flirt with each other across a filled room.
- Grab your lover's bottom the next time they walk by.
- Have a bubble bath ready when your lover comes home.
- Ignite each other's flame by carrying out each other's fantasy.
- Joke with each other often.
- Kill time by kissing.
- Lust as well as love each other.
- Make love outside.
- Nudity can be fun, especially while swimming!
- Open up to each other and play truth or dare.
- Play, play, play!
- Quietly sneak up on your partner and pounce on them.
- Surprise your lover with the best sensual gift: you in the nude with a big bow!
- Take your time during foreplay.
- Understand that each of you are different and enjoy different things.
- Venture into unknown territory by reading up on a new lovemaking technique then practice it tonight!
- Wash each other in the shower.
- Xpress yourself freely in the moment of passion.
- Yearn to carress your lover.
- Zealous lovers are never lonely!

Top Love Songs

10. "Crazy For You" Madonna
9. "By Your Side" Sade
8. "From This Moment On" Shania Twain
7. "Yellow" Coldplay
6. "Right Here Waiting" Richard Marx
5. "Your Song" Elton John
4. "Come Away With Me" Norah Jones
3. "I Could Fall In Love" Selena
2. "The Lady In Red" Chris De Burgh
1. "Save The Best For Last" Vanessa Williams

