



## Valentine's Day



### Valentine's Day

Saint Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 14. It is the traditional day on which people express their love or affection by sending Valentine's cards, offering flowers, chocolates or other gifts. This is a day of love and friendship. But do you know why we celebrate Valentine's Day? Who was Saint Valentine? In the third Century, Rome was ruled by the Emperor Claudius who was known for his bloody battles. He thought that soldiers were better soldiers if they were single. So, he decided to forbid marriages for young men. Valentine, who was a priest, started to marry young couples in secret. However, Claudius found out what he was doing, had him arrested, and condemned him to death. While in prison, Valentine fell in love with the jailer's daughter. On the day he was put to death, February 14, he sent a farewell note to his lover and signed "from your Valentine". It is believed that this note started the custom of exchanging love messages on Valentine's Day.

### Teaching ideas

- ★★★ **CYCLE 4** - Team up with the Music teacher and let students sing for a karaoke *My Valentine* by Paul McCartney (you can Tippex some words for the first listening so that students can fill in the blanks).
- ★★★ **CYCLE 4** - Ask students to summarise a few love stories in History or in Literature: Victoria and Prince Albert / Romeo and Juliet / Jane Eyre and Edward Rochester, etc. or a love story of their choice.
- ★★★ **LYCÉE** - Set up a speed dating activity in the classroom either with ready made role play cards or have students to create their own characters. Each student talks for one minute to their partner then they change partners 3-5 times. Did they find their perfect match?