

The History of Valentine's Day

1 Valentine's Day is a time to celebrate love and friendship and the joy of having other people in your life. Like other holidays, there are many theories about the origin of Valentine's Day, but the most noted one begins in Rome in the year 268.

Emperor Claudius II wanted a fierce team of young men to fight in his armies. He found that when young men are in love or sharing their lives with a wife and children, they tended to be more cautious¹. To insure large numbers of soldiers for his armies, Claudius outlawed² marriage for those young men, but young men and women still fell in love and wanted to become couples in the eyes of the church.

A brave—and obviously romantic—priest named Valentine thought the law was horribly unjust. Putting his life in danger, Valentine continued performing marriage ceremonies, doing so in secret and hidden³ from the eyes of authorities.

10 Word of Valentine's secret ceremonies made its way back to Claudius. The priest was found and put to death, as some versions state, on February 14th. Centuries later, the Catholic Church made that kindly priest a saint, one of three saints named "Valentine."

No one knows exactly when St. Valentine's Day was first celebrated, but there is a poem in existence that is considered to be the first ever written Valentine's Day card. It was sent from a prisoner in the Tower of London to his wife in the year 1415.

15 Today, people send cards, flowers and candy in many countries around the world. The history of Valentine's Day lives on annually every February 14th in a worldwide celebration of love.

© <https://www.safesearchkids.com/the-history-of-valentines-day/>

1. cautious: *prudent* 2. to outlaw: *interdire* 3. hidden: *caché*

A. Read the text. Say if the information is true or false. If it is false correct the information.

1. Valentine's Day is a holiday to celebrate love only.

T F

2. The story of Valentine's Day begins in Venice.

T F

3. Emperor Claudius II wanted young men to marry and have families.

T F

4. Couples got married in secret by a priest called Lucifer.

T F

5. Valentine was killed on February 14th.

T F

B. Answer the questions with sentences.

1. Who made Valentine a saint?

.....

2. When was the first Valentine's Day celebrated?

.....

3. When was the first Valentine's Day card sent?

.....

4. How do people celebrate Valentine's Day today?

.....

B. Le pluriel en anglais

1. Trouve les pluriels irréguliers de ces mots dans le texte.

a. man: b. woman: c. child: d. person:

2. Trouve les pluriels de ces mots dans le texte.

a. authority: c. army: e. country: g. holiday:
b. century: d. theory: f. ceremony:

3. Observe l'exercice ci-dessus et complète la règle.

S'il y a une consonne devant « y », au pluriel on enlève le « y » et on ajoute la terminaison

S'il y a une voyelle devant le « y », au pluriel on ajoute juste la terminaison

4. Transforme ces noms au pluriel.

a. boy: b. baby: c. day: d. university:

C. Le prétérit

1. Observe ces phrases au prétérit et complète la règle.

Emperor Claudius **wanted** a fierce team of young men to fight in his armies.

Valentine **continued** performing ceremonies.

The church **made** that priest a Saint.

Pour mettre un verbe régulier au prétérit, on ajoute la terminaison à la fin du verbe (ou juste si le verbe se termine par « e »). Pour les verbes irréguliers, il faut apprendre les formes au passé par cœur !

2. Relève tous les verbes au prétérit dans le texte et transforme-les au présent.

a. wanted → want d. → g. →
b. → e. → h. →
c. → f. →

