

A Few Fun Facts About Valentine's Day



There are two conflicting views on the origin of Valentine's Day, both dating back to the Ancient Romans. The first is that the day derives from Lupercalia, a raucous Roman festival celebrated from February 13-15. Lupercalia was believed to purify the city, releasing health and fertility in the coming spring.

The second theory is that while the Roman Emperor Claudius II was trying to bolster his army. He forbade young men to marry, believing that single men made better soldiers. St. Valentine defied the ban and performed secret marriages. For his disobedience, Valentine was executed on February 14.



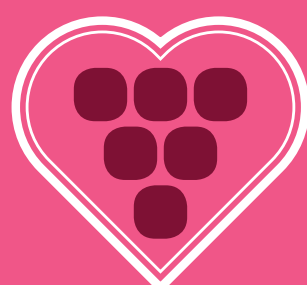
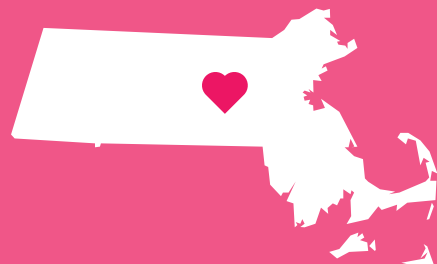
The phrase 'to wear your heart on your sleeve' comes from celebrating Valentine's Day in the Middle Ages. Young people would draw the name of their valentine from a bowl and wear the name on their sleeve for one week to show their love.



The first written valentine is traditionally attributed to the imprisoned Charles, Duke of Orleans, in 1415. The young Duke reportedly passed his time by writing romantic verses for his wife in France.



Esther Allen Howland from Worcester, Mass. is credited as the creator of the American valentine manufacturing industry. She began her work in the mid 1800's after receiving a lavish Valentine's card from England. Her cards took off quickly and soon she was making over \$100,000 a year.



The chocolate box has been around for more than 140 years. The first Valentine's Day box of chocolates was introduced by Richard Cadbury in 1868.



Over 180 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged annually, making Valentine's Day the second most popular greeting-card-giving occasion after Christmas.



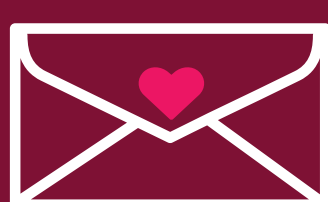
In addition to the U.S., Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, Australia, Denmark, Italy and Japan.

There are approximately 196 million roses produced each year for Valentine's Day. The red rose was the favorite flower of Venus, the Roman goddess of love.



There are over 8 billion candy hearts produced each year for Valentine's Day. That's enough to stretch from Valentine, Arizona to Rome, Italy, and back again.

The X symbol became synonymous with the kiss in medieval times. People who couldn't write their names signed in front of a witness with an X. The X was then kissed to show their sincerity.



Every Valentine's Day, the Italian city of Verona (where Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet lived) receives approximately 1,000 letters that have been addressed to Juliet.



Happy Valentines Day from TPI Solutions Ink!



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