

Do you know why we celebrate Valentine's Day? These days, we do it to tell people that we care about them, give and receive cards, and enjoy chocolates and flowers!

Would you like to know where St. Valentine's Day actually came from? It is meant for to remember a very brave man, a martyr whose name was Valentine.



The Story of St. Valentine

The Roman Emperor Claudius II was fighting in many wars. He wanted a strong army, but many of his men did not want to be soldiers. Claudius thought the men wanted to stay at home to be with their wives and family instead of fighting in wars.

Claudius thought long and hard. He came up with a terrible solution to his problem. He decided to cancel all marriages!

"From here on in no one in all of Rome can get married." he said.

He thought that if the men couldn't get married, the men might want to be soldiers.

At this time, there was a priest by the name of Valentine and he believed that people needed to get married. So he decided to secretly and illegally

marry couples anyway! He was not scared of Claudius. He carried out the weddings in secret places, so the Roman soldiers would not find out. But they did find out and when they did, Valentine was arrested and brought before the Emperor.

The Emperor thought Valentine was a well spoken and clever, young man, and he wanted him to stop being a priest and to become a loyal Roman. Valentine would not do this so he was sent to prison until he could be executed. While he was in prison, he sent out letters to his friends and asked to be prayed for by writing "Remember your Valentine."

Valentine was put to death by the Romans on the 14th or the 24th of February in the year 269 or 270. That is why some people celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14th.

Answer the following by circling the correct answer.

1. Who was the Emperor who ruled during Valentine's lifetime?

- a. Claudius I
- b. Claudius II
- c. Nero
- d. Augustus

2. The Emperor wanted men to:

- a. live at home and work for the Roman Empire.
- b. raise children and be loyal to Rome.
- c. go to other countries and raise families.
- d. fight wars in other lands.

3. Valentine disobeyed the Emperor's orders twice. What TWO things did he refuse to do?

- a. stop performing marriages
- b. kneel to the Emperor
- c. stop being a priest
- d. read the Bible

Vocabulary work

Match the words to the correct meaning.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1. wedding | a. a tasty treat of sugar and cocoa |
| 2. executed | b. a place to keep criminals away from regular citizens |
| 3. martyr | c. to take a criminal away to jail or prison |
| 4. prison | d. ruler of the Roman Empire |
| 5. secretly | e. the second month of the year |
| 6. chocolate | f. done in hiding, privately |
| 7. Emperor | g. a ceremony where two people who love each other join together officially |
| 8. war | h. from a word meaning witness |
| 9. arrest | i. to be killed for a crime or a belief |
| 10. February | j. when groups of people, or countries, fight each other |

[illegible][illegible]

Teacher's Answer Key

- 1. b
- 2. d
- 3. a and c

- 1. g
- 2. i
- 3. h
- 4. b
- 5. f
- 6. a
- 7. d
- 8. j
- 9. c
- 10. e

There are so many words to make but some words include:

rob man brat mental metal every mantle rove run love ran rat rub memory
late yet beer bear brain rain rob not nut bone enter mob bent mom rent
rumble marble ember malt mobile rant