Valentine’s Day Traditions

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which date is celebrated as Valentine’s Day in the United States?
   - A. February 14
   - B. January 14
   - C. March 14
   - D. April 14

   Correct answer: A. February 14
   Valentine’s Day falls on February 14 each year.

2. Which Roman figure is commonly pictured as a winged archer in Valentine’s Day illustrations?
   - A. Neptune
   - B. Mercury
   - C. Cupid
   - D. Vulcan

   Correct answer: C. Cupid
   Cupid is the Roman deity of love. Artists often show him with wings, a bow and arrows.

3. Which shape regularly appears on the U.S. Postal Service’s Love stamps?
   - A. A crescent moon
   - B. A heart
   - C. A chess knight
   - D. A five-pointed star

   Correct answer: B. A heart
   Many Love stamps show a heart in an illustration, pattern or the space between two figures.

4. Which Shakespeare play follows two young lovers from the feuding Montague and Capulet households?
   - A. A Midsummer Night’s Dream
   - B. Much Ado About Nothing
   - C. Twelfth Night
   - D. Romeo and Juliet

   Correct answer: D. Romeo and Juliet
   Romeo is a Montague and Juliet is a Capulet. Their families’ feud shapes the play.

5. A historical paper valentine called a puzzle purse opens in stages. What must the reader do to reveal the hidden message?

A. Soak the card in water
B. Unfold the paper
C. Hold the envelope up to a flame
D. Peel off a wax coating

Correct answer: B. Unfold the paper
The sender folds a sheet into a small packet. The reader unfolds its sections to discover the message.

6. The Finnish name for Valentine’s Day means ‘Friend’s Day.’ Which relationship does that name celebrate?

A. Friendship
B. Marriage
C. Parenthood
D. Mentorship

Correct answer: A. Friendship
In Finland, ystävänpäivä celebrates friends, who may send one another cards or gifts.

7. In Brazil, on what date does Dia dos Namorados, a celebration for couples, take place?

A. August 10
B. February 14
C. April 23
D. June 12

Correct answer: D. June 12
Brazil celebrates Dia dos Namorados on June 12.

8. Which Colorado city adds a special postal mark to Valentine’s cards sent through its re-mailing program?

A. Pueblo
B. Boulder
C. Loveland
D. Aspen

Correct answer: C. Loveland
The Loveland Chamber of Commerce and U.S. Postal Service run the re-mailing program and add a special design to forwarded cards.

9. Who is honored each January 25 as the Welsh patron saint of lovers?

A. St Dwynwen
B. St David
C. St George
D. St Patrick

Correct answer: A. St Dwynwen
St Dwynwen’s Day is observed in Wales on January 25. Dwynwen is associated with lovers.

10. The U.S. Postal Service made a Love stamp in 1997 where two of which birds formed the outline of a heart?

A. Peacocks
B. Penguins
C. Owls
D. Swans

Correct answer: D. Swans
The 1997 design places two swans together so that the space between them makes a heart.

11. Which artist’s design appeared on the first U.S. Love stamp in 1973?

A. Jacob Lawrence
B. Georgia O’Keeffe
C. Robert Indiana
D. Alexander Calder

Correct answer: C. Robert Indiana
The first Love stamp adapted Robert Indiana’s design, which he had used in painting and sculpture.

12. Which Worcester entrepreneur helped popularize commercially made valentines in the United States during the 1800s?

A. Clara Barton
B. Esther Howland
C. Margaret Knight
D. Maria Mitchell

Correct answer: B. Esther Howland
Esther Howland built a greeting-card business in Worcester, Massachusetts, producing decorated valentine cards.

13. What was the intent of an old printed card now called a ‘vinegar valentine’?

A. To report a missed delivery
B. To record a wedding anniversary
C. To invite the recipient to a dance
D. To make fun of the recipient

Correct answer: D. To make fun of the recipient
These cards offered pointed jokes or insults to the recipient. They were commonly known as mocking valentines.

14. In which poem did Geoffrey Chaucer depict birds gathering to choose mates on St Valentine’s Day?

A. The Parliament of Fowls
B. The House of Fame
C. The Book of the Duchess
D. Troilus and Criseyde

Correct answer: A. The Parliament of Fowls
In The Parliament of Fowls, birds meet to choose partners on St Valentine’s Day. It is an early Valentine’s Day reference in English poetry.

15. Which U.S. state joined the Union on Valentine’s Day in 1912, becoming the 48th state?

A. Oregon
B. New Mexico
C. Arizona
D. Oklahoma

Correct answer: C. Arizona
Arizona became the 48th state on February 14, 1912. New Mexico had become the 47th state in January.