

Valentine's Day

1. Read

Valentine's Day cards were first mass-produced in the early 19th century even though people had already started sending love notes before that. The love notes were made of paper and lace. People used to hand deliver their love notes but once the postal service was introduced, things became a lot easier. There was always a risk that your loved one could see you delivering your note to their house, but by sending your card via post it was possible to remain anonymous. This meant that even more people joined in the fun of sending secret Valentine's cards or poems. The Americans decided to copy this popular British tradition and in around 1847 Esther Howland started producing valentine's cards in the states. In 1913, Hallmark produced its very first Valentine's card and from then on the whole thing has snowballed. People no longer just send cards but flowers, chocolates, cuddly toys and even jewellery. Valentine's Day is now big business and can be very expensive indeed.

2. True or false.

- a) Valentine's Day cards were first mass-produced in the late 19th century. _____
- b) People used to hand deliver their love notes. _____
- c) No one could see you if you hand delivered a love note. _____
- d) By using the postal service to send your card you could remain anonymous. _____
- e) The British copied the tradition of sending Valentine's cards from the Americans. _____
- f) Hallmark sent its first card in 1913. _____

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3. Create a class poem.

Typical Valentine's Day poems traditionally start like this:

*Roses are red,
Violets are blue...*

And can be finished any way you want:

*...You're so cute
And I love you*

Now Write the sentence below on a piece of paper. Fold it over and pass it to the person on your left. Write the next line of the poem on the piece of paper you receive. Fold it over and pass it on again to the person on your right.

I see you every day....

Teacher's Notes.

1&2. Students have to read all the sentences in ex 2 very carefully and decide if they are true or false. They must write T or F next to each sentence. They can then compare their answers with a partner before full class feedback.

3. Creating a class poem will give the students a real sense of achievement and will certainly be fun to do as this is a 'free writing' activity in the true sense of the word. Get them to look at the 'roses are red' poem first and they can invent as many endings as they want- 'I like you, do you like me too?' 'candy is sweet, just like you'. Then, give each student a piece of A4 paper and ask them to write their name and the following sentence at the top of the page:

I see you every day....

They then fold the paper down so that the sentence is hidden from view and pass it to the person on their right. They in turn receive a piece of paper from the person on their left. Everyone now has to add a line to the poem, using no more than ten words. Again, they then fold the paper down so that the sentence is hidden from view and pass it to the person on their right and receive a piece of paper from the person on their left on which they must add another line to the poem etc. When each student has got the piece of paper with their name on it back, it's time to read out the poems. Put the students in small groups of about 6, ask them to look at all the poems in their group and decide on the best one. All the favourite poems will be read out to the class.