

1. St. Valentine's Day

It all started a long time before Valentine lived, but this romantic time of year now bears his name thanks to a pope looking to turn a popular pagan festival into a popular Christian one. It seems to have caught on, although these days its religious roots seem to have been largely neglected.

Level

Pre-intermediate and above

How to use the lesson

1. Tell the class you are going to give them each part of a text about St. Valentine's Day, but that the text is in three parts. Each student in the class will have one third of the story to read.
2. Divide the class into groups of three and give each group a copy of Worksheet A cut into three parts, A, B and C.
3. Tell the students they have four minutes to read their part of the text, after which time they are going to answer some questions about it.
4. After four minutes, give each group one copy of Worksheet B. Tell them they have to work together to answer the questions. Encourage students to try to answer them without looking back at the texts.
5. Check answers in open class.

Answers

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Around 500 AD (498 AD) | 9. The daughter of his jailer |
| 2. Spring | 10. 14 th February |
| 3. Pagan gods | 11. Pope Gelasius |
| 4. Luperalia | 12. He wanted to replace a pagan festival with a Christian one |
| 5. They picked the names of young women from a barrel | 13. In the British Museum, London |
| 6. Emperor Claudius II | 14. The Duke of Orleans. He wrote it to his wife. |
| 7. Valentine | 15. In the Tower of London |
| 8. He ordered his execution | |

2. Related Websites

Take a closer look at some of the characters mentioned in the text

<http://people.howstuffworks.com/valentine.htm>

a fuller history of Valentine's Day, past and present

<http://www.novareinna.com/festive/valworld.html>

read about how Valentine's day is celebrated around the world

<http://www.e-cards.com/occasion/valentines/loveyou.html>

Learn how to say 'I love you' in more than 80 languages