

Activity 2: Celebrating love around the world

Although Valentine's Day is recognized around the world, there are a number of different ways in which it is celebrated and there are unique celebrations of love on other days during the year.

Before we visit the website to find out more, does your country have its own unique day to celebrate love?

Take a look at the facts below. Read the sentences in pairs and try to guess which country they relate to, writing down your answers.

1. In this country, Valentine's Day is more commonly referred to as 'Lover's Day'.
2. In this country, Valentine's Day is often called 'Boyfriends'/Girlfriends' Day'. It is celebrated on 12th June, possibly because the following day is Saint Anthony's day. Saint Anthony is known as the marriage saint.
3. In this country, they celebrate 'Friend's Day', a day which is about remembering all of your friends.
4. As in Japan, in this country, women give chocolate to men on 14th February, and men give non-chocolate sweets to women on 14th March.
5. In this country, they celebrate 'All Hearts' Day', which is a celebration started in the 1960s by the flower industry.
6. In this country, they have their own equivalent of Valentine's Day and it's celebrated on the 15th day of the month of Av (which is usually in late August).
7. In this country, they refer to Valentine's Day as 'Hearts Day' and flowers become very expensive.
8. In this country, Valentine's Day is known as 'Affection Day'.

Now,

visit https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentine's_Day#Celebration_and_status_worldwide and check your answers.

Note: You don't need to read the whole article as it's very long. The idea is to skim-read it and try and match the traditions to each country as quickly as you can.

Activity 3: Valentine facts

Visit <http://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day-facts> and decide whether the following facts are true (T) or false (F). Correct those that are false.

1. There are 34 single men aged 65 or older for every 100 single women of the same age.
2. In the US, there are 2.2 million marriages every year, which is more than 600 a day.
3. More than 50% of all Valentine's Day cards are bought in the six days before the celebration.
4. In 2004, there were 21,667 florists across the US and between all these businesses 109,915 people were employed.
5. 70%: the percentage of men and women aged 30 to 34 who had been married at some point in their lives in 2006
6. Valentine's Day is the most popular time to send greetings cards with 141 million cards sent every year.
7. In 2008, 112,185 marriages were performed in Nevada. So many couples 'tie the knot' there that it is the fifth most popular US state in which to marry even though it only ranks 35th in terms of population.
8. 904: the number of dating service companies in America in 2002
9. More than 50% of the US population celebrate Valentine's Day by purchasing a greetings card.
10. There are 100 single women in their 20s for every 119 single men of the same age.