

## Valentine's Day in other countries

While most countries celebrate with traditional gift giving and time with Valentines, people all over the world celebrate in other ways as well. Valentine's Day was first concentrated in Anglican countries, but now the holiday is celebrated all over the world.

- Jack Valentine is a folk character in Norfolk who leaves presents on doorsteps for children.
- In Slovenia, the holiday is also associated with agriculture, as it is considered the beginning of spring. This may have something to do with the connection between agriculture and love in terms of fertility, which were connected hundreds of years ago with the pagan festival. It is often the first day that workers head back to the fields, and many proposals occur in these fields.
- Latin America also refers to the day as "Día del Amor y la Amistad," or the Day of Love and Friendship. It is distinct in the way that the holiday honors friends as well as lovers. However, the holiday in Latin America is typically celebrated in June due to the February 14th date's proximity to Mardi Gras related celebrations. Finland also celebrates a similar "Friend's Day" on Valentine's Day.
- In other Scandinavian countries, the holiday is largely an American and commercial influence, mostly promoted by the flower and candy industry in order to stimulate sales.
- In China, men typically give sweethearts flowers and chocolates, but due to its proximity to the Lunar New Year, it is celebrated later in the year.
- South Korean tradition has women giving men chocolate on February 14 and men giving women a different type of candy on March 14. Black Day, on April 14th, has those who did not receive anything celebrate their loneliness by eating black noodles.
- Valentine's Day in Japan centers solely on giving chocolate due to advertisement by chocolate companies. These companies make much of their profit during this time of year.
- In many Middle-Eastern Islamic countries, the celebration of Valentine's Day or the sale of Valentine's Day-related merchandise is banned, believing that the holiday encourages behavior that is not in line with Islamic beliefs. However, the practice of exchanging flowers is gaining popularity in Pakistan despite discouragement from political and religious leaders.

**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 'Love's Day'.
2. In this country, Valentine's Day is often called 'Boyfriends'/Girlfriends' Day'. It is celebrated on 12 June, possibly because the following day is St Anthony's day. St Anthony is known as the marriage saint.
3. In this country, they celebrate 'All Hearts' Day', which is a celebration started in the 1960s by the flower industry.
4. 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).
5. In this country, flowers become very expensive on Valentine's Day.
6. In this country, Valentine's Day is known as 'Affection Day'.

**Decide whether the following facts are true (T) or false (F). Correct those that are false.**

1. Children in Norfolk often receive presents from James Valentine.
2. Many workers ask their partners to marry them in fields in Slovenia.
3. In Finland and Latin America, friends as well as lovers are celebrated on Valentine's Day.
4. Valentine's Day is promoted mainly by the card and candy industry in Scandinavia.
5. Valentine's Day is not celebrated in February in China.
6. On February 14th, men give women chocolate and on March 14th, women give men candy in South Korea.
7. In Japan, only chocolate is given on Valentine's Day.
8. Valentine's Day is popular and promoted in many Islamic countries.

## Valentine's Day in other countries

While most countries celebrate with traditional gift giving and time with Valentines, people all over the world celebrate in other ways as well. Valentine's Day was first concentrated in Anglican countries, but now the holiday is celebrated all over the world.

- Jack Valentine is a folk character in Norfolk who leaves presents on doorsteps for children.
- In Slovenia, the holiday is also associated with agriculture, as it is considered the beginning of spring. This may have something to do with the connection between agriculture and love in terms of fertility, which were connected hundreds of years ago with the pagan festival. It is often the first day that workers head back to the fields, and many proposals occur in these fields.
- Latin America also refers to the day as "Día del Amor y la Amistad," or the Day of Love and Friendship. It is distinct in the way that the holiday honors friends as well as lovers. However, the holiday in Latin America is typically celebrated in June due to the February 14th date's proximity to Mardi Gras related celebrations. Finland also celebrates a similar "Friend's Day" on Valentine's Day.
- In other Scandinavian countries, the holiday is largely an American and commercial influence, mostly promoted by the flower and candy industry in order to stimulate sales.
- In China, men typically give sweethearts flowers and chocolates, but due to its proximity to the Lunar New Year, it is celebrated later in the year.
- South Korean tradition has women giving men chocolate on February 14 and men giving women a different type of candy on March 14. Black Day, on April 14th, has those who did not receive anything celebrate their loneliness by eating black noodles.
- Valentine's Day in Japan centers solely on giving chocolate due to advertisement by chocolate companies. These companies make much of their profit during this time of year.
- In many Middle-Eastern Islamic countries, the celebration of Valentine's Day or the sale of Valentine's Day-related merchandise is banned, believing that the holiday encourages behavior that is not in line with Islamic beliefs. However, the practice of exchanging flowers is gaining popularity in Pakistan despite discouragement from political and religious leaders.

**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.**

7. In this country, Valentine's Day is more commonly referred to as 'Love's Day'.
8. In this country, Valentine's Day is often called 'Boyfriends'/Girlfriends' Day'. It is celebrated on 12 June, possibly because the following day is St Anthony's day. St Anthony is known as the marriage saint.
9. In this country, they celebrate 'All Hearts' Day', which is a celebration started in the 1960s by the flower industry.
10. 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).
11. In this country, flowers become very expensive on Valentine's Day.
12. In this country, Valentine's Day is known as 'Affection Day'.

**Decide whether the following facts are true (T) or false (F). Correct those that are false.**

8. Children in Norfolk often receive presents from James Valentine.
9. Many workers ask their partners to marry them in fields in Slovenia.
10. In Finland and Latin America, friends as well as lovers are celebrated on Valentine's Day.
11. Valentine's Day is promoted mainly by the card and candy industry in Scandinavia.
12. Valentine's Day is not celebrated in February in China.
13. On February 14th, men give women chocolate and on March 14th, women give men candy in South Korea.
14. In Japan, only chocolate is given on Valentine's Day. 8. Valentine's Day is popular and promoted in many Islamic countries.