



Teacher's Guide
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Table of Contents

	Page
Program Overview	3
Viewer Objectives	4
Suggested Lesson Plan	5
Description of Blackline Masters	6
Answer Key	7
Transcript of the Video	7
Web Resources	12

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Valentine's Day
Second Edition

From the
Holiday Facts & Fun
Series

Grades K-5

Viewing Time: 12:45

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Intended Audience and Uses

Valentine's Day 2nd Edition has been produced for students in grades K-5. This video can be used to help students understand and appreciate the holiday in terms of its historical development and how it is celebrated today. The program meets McREL K-4 History Standard 1, Level I, Benchmark 5 (Understands cultural heritage through stories, songs, and celebrations); McREL U.S. History Standard 1, Level II, Benchmark 8 (“Understands the historical events...commemorated by major...holidays”); and McREL K-4 History, Topic 4 (“The history of Peoples of Many Cultures Around the World”).

Program Synopsis

The program is divided into four sections. After the introduction, which explains that there are different kinds of love, the first section gives an historical overview of the holiday. The second, which contains an animated sequence of holiday riddles, discusses Valentine's Day cards. The third section covers holiday symbols – hearts, Cupid, flowers, and lovebirds. The fourth part shows how the holiday is typically celebrated in the school setting, with classroom games, sweets and cards given to classmates.

VIEWER OBJECTIVES

After viewing this video and participating in the suggested activities, viewers should be able to do the following:

1. Explain the historical background and development of Valentine's Day.
2. Tell four symbols typically associated with the holiday.
3. Know how to participate in several games often played on Valentine's Day.
4. Explain why it is important to give a card to everyone in the class (if cards are exchanged).

The producers encourage you to make adaptations and changes to the following lesson plan whenever you feel it will enhance your students' learning experiences. Only by tailoring the material to your unique classroom situation will you be able to maximize the educational experience afforded by these materials.

SUGGESTED LESSON PLAN

Viewing Strategies

Various strategies may be employed when showing *Valentine's Day, 2nd Edition* to your class. If you wish to use the program as a way to impart general information about the holiday, you may find it useful to show the entire program in one screening, then follow up with appropriate questions (see the *Suggested Discussion Questions* blackline master) and/or activities suggested in this guide. If time is limited, you may, of course, select one or several sequences that correspond to your classroom needs.

Introduce the Program

Several days before showing the video, instruct your students to bring from home fabric scraps and leftover wrapping paper. Tell the class that everyone will see a program on the holiday – and that they will use the scraps and paper to make cards. You also may refer your students to various web sites that give directions on how to make one's own card.

Pre-Viewing Activities

The producers encourage you to prescreen the program to familiarize yourself with its content.

Have the children cut the paper and fabric scraps into heart shapes. When doing so, ask everyone to share what he or she already knows about Valentine's Day and how the holiday is celebrated. On the chalkboard or overhead projector, categorize responses into *food, activities, history*, etc. After completing this activity, tell the class to see if the Valentine's Day celebration shown in the program is

similar to theirs. How is it the same? How is it different? Now turn your attention to the heart-shaped scraps. Does anyone know why hearts are seen on the holiday? Tell the class that everyone will find out when they see the program.

Post-Viewing Activities

Discuss the video, using your inquiries made before showing it. (*I.e.*, “How is the Valentine’s Day celebration in the video different from, and similar to, our celebration?” and “Why do we see hearts on the holiday?”) Of course, you may use the ***Suggested Discussion Questions***, if you prefer. Duplicate and hand out ***Valentine’s Day Symbols***. You may assign this activity as homework, individual seatwork or committee work. Next pass out ***More Valentine’s Day Riddles***. You may have your class do this as homework, or as individual seatwork. Place everyone’s work on your classroom bulletin board after it has been completed. As a culminating activity, have the students make a Valentine’s Day card for a favorite family member (or members) by gluing their fabric and paper hearts on construction paper. Words can be added with crayons or makers.

Description of Blackline Masters

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Gives questions that may be asked after each segment is viewed.

VALENTINE’S DAY SYMBOLS – Reviews the most common symbols of the holiday.

MORE VALENTINE’S DAY RIDDLES – A coloring and answer-the-riddle activity.

ANSWER KEY

Video Quiz: 1. True 2. c., February 14th 3. Juno 4. He thought they would worry about their wives, so wouldn't be good soldiers 5. b., sent to jail 6. giving Valentine's Day cards 7. because people used to believe that the heart controlled a person's feelings 8. c., falls in love 9. He's supposed to be married by next Valentine's Day. 10. You must give a Valentine's card to everyone in the class.

TRANSCRIPT OF THE VIDEO

Narrator: Love. For most of us, it's among the very first – and most wonderful – things we feel in life.

As we grow older, we discover that there's more than one of love.

Girl 1: You know how yesterday you said we were best friends?

Girl 2: Yes.

Girl: Well, here's a friendship bracelet.

Girl 2: Thanks.

Narrator: There's a love we may feel for our friends and classmates.

There's a love we may feel for our teachers.

Teacher: Thank you so much! That's so nice of you!

Narrator: There's a love we may feel for our relatives such as uncles, aunts and cousins.

And, of course, there's always the very special love we feel for our parents and grandparents.

There's even a kind of love we have for pets.

Love makes us feel wonderful all over. So it's no wonder that we have a holiday to celebrate love. It's called ... "Valentine's Day."

We celebrate Valentine's Day every February 14th – almost everybody knows that.

But probably very few realize that the holiday's beginnings go back more than 2,000 years, to the days of ancient Rome.

Every February...the citizens of that city (which can still be found in today's Italy) had a holiday honoring Juno, their goddess of women and marriage.

During the celebration, young and women and men pulled a slip of paper from a large vase.

A name was written on the paper, and that would be the person's partner for a two-day celebration starting the following day, a celebration honoring Lupercus, a Roman god who was said to bring good luck.

It wasn't until hundreds of years later that the holidays honoring Lupercus and Juno changed to honor a man named Valentine.

Valentine was a Christian priest when Claudius II, the king of Rome, declared it unlawful for young men to marry.

You see, the king wanted them to be soldiers in faraway lands. He thought that if the young men were married, they would worry about their wives back home and so wouldn't make very good warriors.

Valentine disobeyed the king and secretly married many young couples.

When Claudius found out about it, he sent Valentine to prison.

But the priest was very popular, and people threw flowers and messages to him.

Those messages and flowers are believed to be the world's first Valentine's greetings.

Today, the most common of all Valentine's Day customs we enjoy recall those greetings – the cards we receive from – and give to – our loved ones and friends.

Sometimes, people email Valentine's Day greetings – there are many selections – or print the cards from their computer, fold them and then mail them.

However, many people believe hand-made cards are a more personal and meaningful way to say, "I love you" or "I like you."

Sometimes funny riddles, such as "What did the boy octopus say to the girl octopus?" are written on Valentine's Day cards.

So what *did* he say? Can I hold your hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand?

Here's another: What did one snake say to the other snake? Give me a little hug and a hiss!

What is a vampire's sweetheart called? His ghou-friend!

Why did the banana go out with the prune? Because he couldn't get a date!

What did the stamp say to the envelope? "I'm stuck on you!"

Have you ever wondered why red hearts are placed on Valentine's Day cards?

Well, the practice goes back to the days when people believed that the heart controlled a person's feelings.

And that's easy to understand because people often report that they can feel their hearts beating faster when they're near the one they love.

But today we know that a person's brain controls her or his feelings, not the heart.

Nobody knows for certain why people fall in love, but according to legend, this is the one who's responsible – Cupid!

You often see him on Valentine's Day cards and decorations.

The ancient Romans said that Cupid was the son of Venus, their goddess of love. Sometimes he's called "Dan" Cupid.

The Romans said that Dan Cupid would look for someone and then shoot an arrow into her or his heart.

The arrows were magical and couldn't be felt. But they had a powerful effect on the person hit, because as soon as she saw whoever happened to be nearby, she would immediately fall in love with him.

Sometimes it didn't make any sense to fall in love with that person – perhaps he didn't love her back – but it didn't matter.

That's why we often say, "love is blind."

According to legend, when your heart gets hit by Cupid's arrow you have no power over your feelings!

By the way, that's why you often see an arrow through a heart on Valentine's Day. It's a reminder of what's happened to a person who has fallen in love – or at least, what's supposed to have happened.

Flowers, in addition to hearts, arrows and Cupids, are another symbol of the holiday.

Did you know that different kinds of flowers have different meanings? Well, they do!

Red roses mean "I love you."

Yellow tulips mean "My love for you is hopeless because you don't love me back."

Green leaves in a display of flowers mean that the person who gives the plants hopes that his or her love will be returned.

If a man receives a flower called a "bachelor button," it's supposed to mean that he'll be married before the next Valentine's Day rolls around.

Violets mean faithfulness.

Lovebirds are still another symbol of the holiday. A long time ago people believed that the birds chose their mates on February 14th.

Of course, today we know that's not true.

But we still use lovebirds to show how nice it is when two people have deep feelings for each other.

Teacher: Our room mothers have given us a lot of nice treats. I need some volunteers to pass them out.

Narrator: Parties often are given on Valentine's Day. People getting together, eating goodies, and playing games seems to be a perfect way to celebrate the holiday.

The food served is usually sweet – just like love is sweet.

Cakes, cookies in the shape of hearts and candy in heart-shaped boxes are examples of goods often served on the holiday.

In addition, many different kinds of games are played.

This one is called "Who Will Be My Sweetheart?" To play, seeds are handed out and a player throws some of them into a bowl of water.

Next, the player stirs the seeds while everyone waits until they form a letter.

The letter is supposed to be the first initial of a person's name – it looks like James this time – with whom the player is supposed to fall in love.

Another game, "What Will Your Love Life Be?" uses three bowls.

One is full of water; the second, about half full; the third has no water at all in it.

A player is blindfolded, the bowls' places are changed, and the player sticks his or her hand into one of them.

If the hand goes into the bowl full of water, the player will fall in love and have a happy life.

If the hand goes into a half-full bowl, the player will fall in love, but may not have such a happy life.

But if the hand goes into the empty bowl, the unfortunate player will never find love.

Of course, it's just a game and won't really happen.

For many people, the highlight of any Valentine's Day party is receiving all those cards.

It's nice to know that so many people like you.

The only rule for giving cards is that you must give one to everybody in your class.

After all, nobody wants to be left out – they'd feel bad about that – and Valentine's Day is all about feeling good.

It's a holiday about love and about friendship.

And for that very reason, it's one of our best holidays!

Web Resources

Valentine's Day History

http://www.pictureframes.co.uk/pages/saint_valentine.htm#story

A somewhat more detailed version of the Valentine's Day story.

Kids' Domain Valentine's Day Game "What's Different?"

<http://www.kidsdomain.com/holiday/val/games/dogs.html>

A good way to enhance visual skills. Be sure to click "Let me try another one."

DLTK's Valentine's Day Crafts for Kids

<http://www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/valentines/>

A collection of simple crafts for the very young.

Discussion Questions – Valentine’s Day, 2nd Edition

For Opening and Segment One

1. Name five different kinds of love. (Love for parents, grandparents, friends, pets, relatives such as uncles and cousins)
2. Where did people celebrate a holiday honoring Juno? (Rome)
3. How did men and women get their partners for the holiday honoring Lupercus? (Pulled names from a vase)
4. Why did Claudius II declare it illegal for young men to marry? (He thought they would worry about their wives and so be bad soldiers.)
5. Who disobeyed Claudius’s law? (Valentine)
6. What happened to him? (He was jailed.)
7. Who received the first Valentine’s greetings? Where? (St. Valentine in jail)

For Segments Two and Three

1. What is the most common of all Valentine’s Day customs? (Sending and receiving cards)
2. Name three ways to send cards. (Buy them at the store, send them via email, print them on your computer’s printer)
3. Why do some people prefer to make their own cards? (They think that they are more personal and meaningful.)
4. Why are hearts placed on Valentine’s Day cards? (Recalls time when people believed that the heart controlled a person’s feelings)
5. According to legend, why do people fall

in love? (They are hit with Cupid’s arrow.)

6. Who is Cupid? (The son of Venus, the Roman goddess of love)
7. What do red roses mean? (I love you.)
8. What do yellow tulips mean? (My love for you is hopeless because you don’t love me back.)
9. What do flowers in green leaves mean? (The giver hopes his or her love will be returned.)
10. What does it mean when a man receives a “bachelor’s button”? (He will be married before the next Valentine’s Day rolls around.)
11. What do violets mean? (Faithfulness)

For Segment Four

1. Name three foods often served at Valentine’s day parties. (Cakes, cookies, candy)
2. Why are they served? (They’re sweet like love is sweet.)
3. Name two games often played at Valentine’s Day parties. (Who Will Be My Sweetheart? and What Will Your Love Life Be?)
4. What is the only rule for giving cards? (You must give a card to everyone in the class.)

Name _____

Valentine's Day Symbols

Directions: With crayons or magic markers, color in the symbols and then, in the space below each one, tell what it is and why we see it on Valentine's Day. If you need more room, you may use the back of this paper.



Name _____

More Valentine's Day Riddles

Directions: Read the riddles below. On a separate piece of paper draw pictures to illustrate several of them. The first riddle shows you an example.



What did the boy bat say to the girl bat on Valentine's Day?
"You're fun to hang around with!"

What happened when the two angels got married?
They lived harpily ever after!

What did the boy cat say to the girl cat on Valentine's Day?
You're purrr-fect for me!

What did the boy pickle say to the girl pickle on Valentine's Day?
You mean a great dill to me!

What did the boy bird say to the girl bird on Valentine's Day?
Let me call you Tweet heart!

What did the boy rabbit say to the girl rabbit on Valentine's Day?
Some bunny likes you!

What did the painter say to her boyfriend?
"I love you with all my art!"

What does a man who loves his car do on February 14?
He gives it a valenshine!

What did the man with the broken leg say to his nurse?
"I've got a crutch on you!"

Did you hear about the romance in the tropical fish tank?
It was a case of guppy love.

What do you call two birds in love?
Tweethearts!

What do you call a very small valentine?
A valentiny!

What did one oar say to the other?
"Can I interest you in a little row-mance?"