

Name _____ Date _____

Do you know why we celebrate Valentine's Day? Now it is mainly so that we can tell people that we care about them, give and receive cards, and enjoy chocolate and candy.

But according to one legend, St. Valentine's Day is meant for people to remember a brave man, a martyr* whose name was Valentine.

The Story of St. Valentine

The Roman Emperor Claudius II was fighting many wars. He wanted a strong army, but many men did not want to be soldiers. Claudius thought the men wanted to stay home to be with their wives and children instead of leaving to fight wars.

Claudius thought of an awful solution to his problem. He decided to cancel all marriages! No one in all of Rome could get married. Claudius thought that if the men couldn't get married, the men would ignore the women and want to be soldiers.

Valentine, who was a priest, believed that people needed to get married. He thought that if they were not married, they would be tempted to sin by living together without being married. So he secretly and illegally married couples anyway! He performed the weddings in secret places, so the Roman soldiers would not find out.

But they did find out. Valentine was arrested and brought before the Emperor. The Emperor thought Valentine was a well spoken and wise young man, and encouraged him to stop being a Christian and become a loyal Roman. Valentine would not deny his beliefs, and he refused. He was sent to prison until he could be executed. While he was in prison, he sent out letters to his friends and asked to be prayed for by writing *Remember your Valentine*.

Valentine was killed on the 14th or the 24th of February in the year 269 or 270. We celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14th in honor of St. Valentine.

Although it is not known whether this legend is factually true, it is a good story anyway. It is nice to think of someone who believed in marriage and was willing to risk death to do what he believed was right.

**martyr comes from the Greek work martus, which means "witness". A martyr is a person who would rather suffer, and even die, than give up the things he or she believes in.*

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Answer the following:

1. Name the Emperor who ruled during Valentine's lifetime.
 - a. Claudius I
 - b. Claudius II
 - c. Nero
 - d. Augustus

2. The Emperor wanted men to:
 - a. live at home and work for the empire.
 - b. raise children and be loyal Roman citizens.
 - c. go to other countries and raise families.
 - d. go fight wars in other lands.

3. Valentine disobeyed the Emperor's orders twice. What TWO things did he refuse to do?
 - a. stop performing marriages
 - b. kneel to the Emperor
 - c. stop being a Christian
 - d. read the Bible

Match the words to the correct meaning.

- | | | | |
|---------|-----------|----|--|
| 1. ___ | wedding | a. | a tasty treat of sugar and cocoa |
| 2. ___ | executed | b. | a place to keep criminals away from regular citizens |
| 3. ___ | martyr | c. | to take a criminal away to jail or prison |
| 4. ___ | prison | d. | ruler of the Roman Empire |
| 5. ___ | secretly | e. | the second month of the year |
| 6. ___ | chocolate | f. | done in hiding, privately |
| 7. ___ | Emperor | g. | a ceremony where two people who love each other join together officially |
| 8. ___ | war | h. | from a word meaning <i>witness</i> |
| 9. ___ | arrest | i. | to be killed for a crime or a belief |
| 10. ___ | February | j. | when groups of people, or countries, fight each other |

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Answer Key

1. b
2. d
3. a and c

1. g
2. i
3. h
4. b
5. f
6. a
7. d
8. j
9. c
10. e

Answers will vary and there are MANY words to make. Some words include:

rob	man	brat	mental	metal
every	mantle	rove	run	love
ran	rat	rub	memory	late
yet	beer	bear	brain	rain
rob	not	nut	bone	enter
mob	bent	mom	rent	rumble
marble	ember	malt	mobile	rant