

Valentine's Day customs around the world

The genesis of Valentine's Day goes back to the Renaissance.

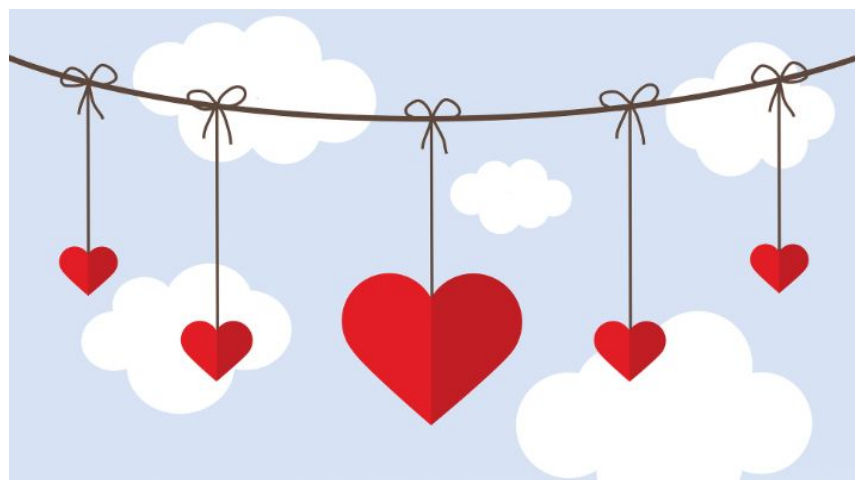
The custom of showing affection on February 14th was born in the west and south of Europe, spread by the British.

England

In England, children dress up as adults, visit their neighbors and sing romantic songs. It's common to send heart-shaped cards with pictures of Romeo and Juliet. The oldest Valentine's Day card comes from the sixteenth

century. The custom of cards went to the United States.

USA



The Valentine's Day card tradition began with Esther Howland, who founded a love card company.



Cities are drowning in red hearts, schools organise thematic lessons and games

for children. Adults gifts, lovers end the day with a romantic dinner or a love movie. Americans do not regret their money that day and spend around \$18 billion on gifts each year!!

Czech Republic

Valentine's Day in the Czech Republic is celebrated twice a year on February 14th and May 1st.



During these days, the Charles Bridge in Prague is under siege. For love to survive, you need to put a padlock on it.

Denmark

In Denmark, it is a common practice to send a gaekkebrev, a witty



letter written by gentlemen. The girl who guesses the name of the admirer will be presented with sweets for Easter.

Malaysia

On this day, Malaysians organize a competition for lovers who are handcuffed for a whole week to win the competition and receive a cash prize.

China

Valentine's Day in China is called „The night of seven” and is celebrated in mid-August. An ancient legend about the love of a mortal and one of the seven heavenly sisters is associated with him. The angry goddess punished the lovers by painting with a hairpin a line in the sky (milky way), which separated the pair forever.

Chinese women on this day go to the river and put



needles on the water, if they do not sink, it means that the girl is ready to get married.

Japan

In Japan ladies give sweets to gentlemen, not only to their beloved ones, but also to their friends and married men. To distinguish between intentions, chocolates are divided into giri-choko for colleagues and honmei-choko for loved ones.



Italy

In Italy, in Umbria there is the tomb of Saint Valentine. Red is the color of love and it is important that each gift e.g. flowers, jewelry, clothes- is red.

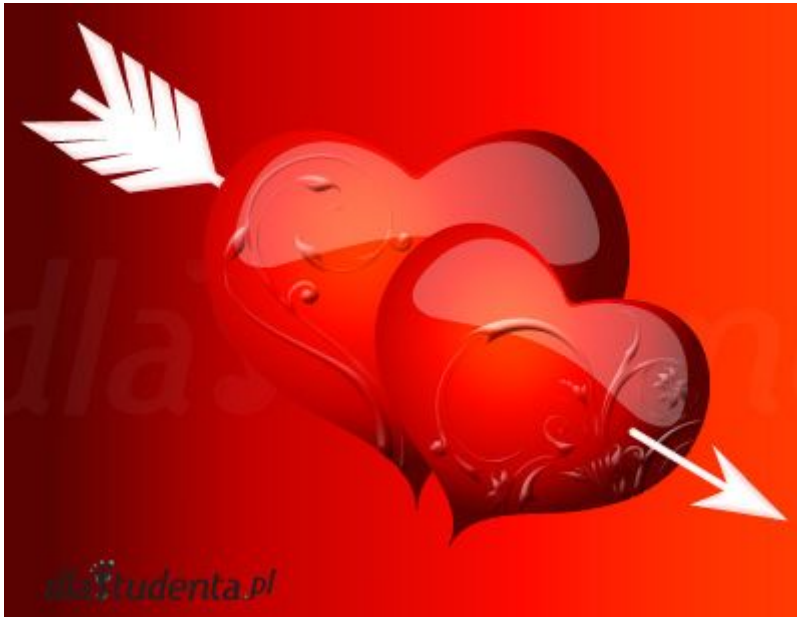
Italians believe that the first man a woman sees on

February 14th

will be her

husband during

a year.



Poland

In Poland, on the 14th of February, those who are in love or loving make wishes, bring flowers, gifts and the rest depends on imagination.