




Valentine Bears Activities

Valentine's Day Doily Card Message Template

For _____



After you've decorated your doily card, write a 4-line poem for your Valentine on this template. Then cut it out and glue it into the center of the heart.

On the next page, let your littles use candy hearts to graph how long the bears will sleep. How many months till February? How many months till Mr. and Mrs. Bear wake up for good?



Valentine Bears Hibernation Habits



	0	1	2	3	4	5
October						
November						
December						
January						
February						
March						
April						



The History of Valentine's Day

February 14 is Valentine's Day, a celebration of love the world over. When we think of Valentines, we think of red or pink hearts, chocolates, and roses. But the origins of Valentine's Day were a little more serious than that.

There are 2 different legends about St. Valentine, and historians can't be sure they are both about the same man. In each tale, however, Valentine stands up for his beliefs. In the first tale, Emperor Claudius II declared marriage illegal for young men in the 3rd century A.D. . His reasoning was that single men made better soldiers than married men, and he needed more soldiers. Valentine, knowing that God would wish it, continued to marry people in secret until he was arrested by the emperor's men.



In the second legend, Valentine was imprisoned by Claudius II and while he awaited his execution, the jailer's daughter frequently visited him. Soon the two fell in love. Before Valentine was taken to his death, he wrote his love a letter and signed it, "Love, from your Valentine." It is said this is where we get the phrase that we see on so many Valentine's Day cards.

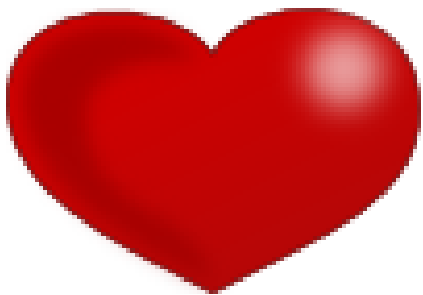
The date we celebrate Valentine's Day was set by Pope Gelasius at the end of the 5th century. Some people believe he chose the date because it is when Valentine died. Others believe the date was chosen to replace the pagan festival of Lupercalia. Lupercalia celebrated Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture and Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome. Lupercalia ceased to be celebrated widely after the feast of St. Valentine was declared for this date.

Written Valentines gained popularity in the 1400s. In fact, the oldest recorded Valentine, stored in the manuscript collection of the British Library in London England,



is from 1415. It was written by the Duke of Orleans to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London.

Including small tokens of affection with handwritten notes became part of the celebration in the 18th century in both Britain and the United States. Cupid, one of the main symbols of Valentine's Day, was actually a Roman god who had nothing to do with St. Valentine. Rather, he was the son of Venus, the goddess of love. Cupid means 'desire' in Latin, so it makes sense that people think this mythological creature can pierce your heart with an arrow and make you fall in love.



The heart is a symbol of Valentine's Day because the human heart was once thought by scientists to be the place where all emotion happened. Naturally, that means love happens in your heart rather than your head. We've long known those early scientists to be wrong, but the idea of love and the heart being intertwined persists in the symbols of the holiday.

Roses have often been used to describe lovers or as a comparison for love in poetry, so it follows that the flower itself should be a symbol of our love celebration. Red roses in particular stand for strong emotion and love, while pink roses mean friendship and admiration, and white roses stand for purity and true love.

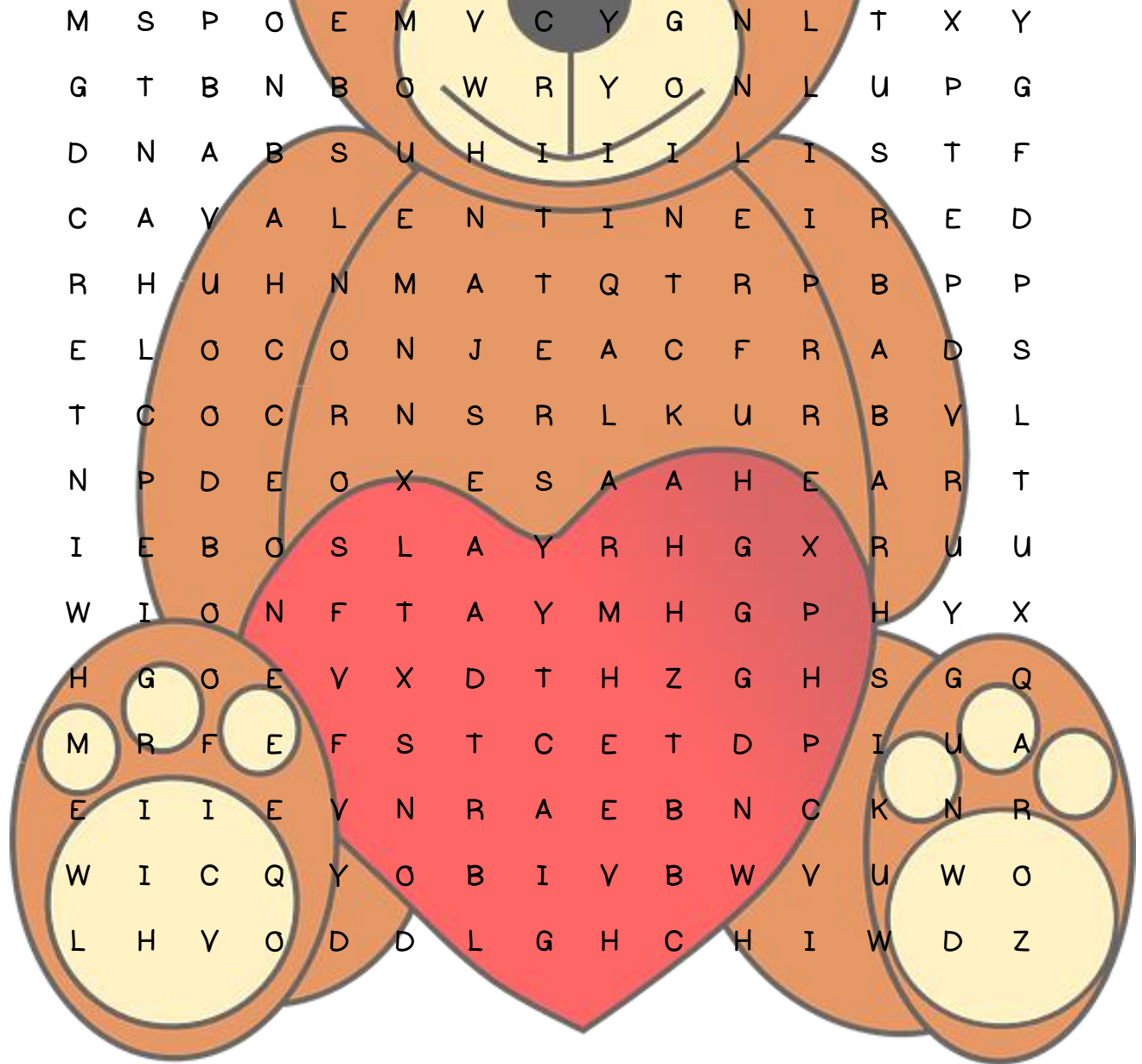


Doves are a symbol of the celebration of Valentine because it was once commonly believed that birds chose their mates on February 14th. Doves mate for life, which is why they are the particular birds to represent love on Valentine's Day.



The Valentine Bears

Word Search



ALARM
CHOCOLATE
FEBRUARY
HONEY
POEM
VALENTINE

ANTS
CRISPY
HEART
HUSBAND
SNORE
WIFE

BEAR
CRITTERS
HIBERNATION
LOVE
SPRING
WINTER



Fill in the Blanks

February 14 is _____ Day, a celebration of love the world over.

In the first tale, Emperor _____ declared marriage illegal for young men in the 3rd century A.D.

Valentine, knowing that God would wish it, continued to _____ people in secret until he was arrested by the emperor's men.

The date we celebrate Valentine's Day was set by Pope _____ at the end of the 5th century.

Others believe the date was chosen to replace the pagan festival of _____.

Including small _____ of affection with handwritten notes became part of the celebration in the 18th century in both Britain and the United States.

Cupid, one of the main symbols of Valentine's Day, was actually a _____ god who had nothing to do with St. Valentine.

We've long known those early scientists to be wrong, but the idea of love and the _____ being intertwined persists in the symbols of the holiday.

_____ roses in particular stand for strong emotion and love, while _____ roses mean friendship and admiration, and _____ roses stand for purity and true love.

_____ mate for life, which is why they are the particular birds to represent love on Valentine's Day.

