Winchester Grange #74









When was the first American Valentine Card produced?







The first American Valentine card was produced in 1834 by New York engraver Robert Elton.

In 2020, over 1 billion Valentine's Day cards were exchanged worldwide.





What is the most popular flower purchased on Valentine's Day, and how many are purchased each year?







Roses (of all colors) are the most popular flower on Valentine's Day. Over 50 million roses are given for Valentine's Day each year, with Red being the most purchased color.

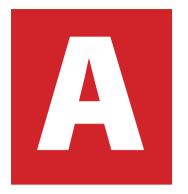




Who invented the candy box, and in what year?







Richard Cadbury invented the first Valentines Day candy box in the late 1800s. More than 35 million boxes are sold each year for Valentine's Day. Chocolate sales represent 75 percent or more of Valentine's Day candy purchases.







What is the most used textile on Valentine's Day decorations?







Lace is the most used textile on Valentine's Day decorations. The word lace comes from the Latin laques, meaning "to snare or net," as in to catch a person's heart.







Who invented Conversation Hearts candies?







Sweethearts, or conversation hearts, were invented by Oliver Chase, the creator of Necco Wafers, in 1902. Today, Necco says about 100,000 of them are sold each year with 10 new sayings for the hearts introduced every year.







What is one of the largest areas of gift spending for Valentine's Day?







According to the National Retail Federation, 27 percent of people celebrating Valentine's Day say they bought gifts for their pets. Spending on Valentine's Day gifts for pets has also grown significantly, going from \$450 million in 2010 to more than \$1.7 billion in 2020.





Who is the top recipient of Valentine's Cards?







Teachers are the number one recipient of Valentines, according to Good Housekeeping, receiving more than 650 million Valentine cards a year.



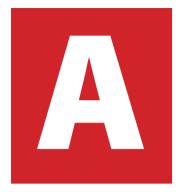




Where did Xs and Os (hugs and kisses) originate?







In the Middle Ages, people who were unable to write their names would sign their name with an X, then kiss it to show their sincerity. When Jewish immigrants who could not write arrived at Ellis Island, they refused to sign entry forms with the "x," which they interpreted as a crucifix and a symbol of oppression. Instead they drew an "o". Both symbols came to be used in the game of Tic Tac Toe," where they became known as hugs and kisses in the 1950s.







What holiday was originally observed on February 14th?







Groundhog Day was originally observed on February 14th. Candlemas (which is the end of the 40-day Christmas Season which marked the midpoint between solstice and equinox) fell on February 14th. So Pennsylvania Dutch farmers originally observed Groundhog Day on the same day. It moved to Feb. 2 in the 1890s.







Where did the phrase "Sweets for the Sweet" originate?







The phrase "Sweets for the Sweet" comes straight out of Shakespeare's Hamlet – Act 5, Scene 1.





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