



Name _____

The History of Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a holiday celebrated each year on February 14th. Its origins date back thousands of years ago to the Roman festival of Lupercalia. It was held mid February. The festival celebrated Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture and the Roman founders Romulus and Remus. It would pair off women with men for the duration of the festival.

The holiday may have gotten its name from a priest named Valentine who was martyred around 270 CE, however there were several St. Valentines. The exact origin is unknown but there are several legends. One legend states the priest signed a letter "from your Valentine" to a woman. Another

legend
became
famous
When

Pope
much

far back as the Middle Ages but written valentines didn't appear until after the 1400's. Valentines commonly display heart and Cupid, the Roman god of love in the form of a winged baby with a bow and arrows.



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1. The holiday was dated back to _____ .
2. The festival Lupercalia celebrated _____ .
3. The emperor banned military men from _____ .
4. The name of the Roman god of love is _____ .