



Valentine's Day



Valentine's Day is celebrated with chocolate, love cards, kisses, love hearts, flowers and little presents in many countries of the world. However in countries like Finland, United States, Guatemala and others it isn't just Lovers Day, but Friendship Day too. That's why in many schools teachers and children organize Valentine's Day parties.

We'd like to celebrate this occasion as the Love Day!

Pure love that children can feel. True love for their parents, grandparents, teachers, friends and...pets.

It is only when we are older that things turn to be more complicated.

We need to separate, distinguish, label, we need to find the right name for each emotional hue and spend more time thinking than loving.

In the pdf you will find many different ways to celebrate Valentine's Day around the world, games, activities and crafts to spend a special day with your class.

Happy Valentine's Day and Happy Friendship and Pure Love Day!

Mariagrazia Bertarini





Denmark



On Valentine's Day the Danish exchange cards with pressed white flowers called **snowdrops**.

Boys also give girls **gækkebrev**, a joke letter consisting of a funny rhyme written on intricately cut paper and signed only with dots.

If a girl guesses the sender, she earns herself an Easter egg later that year.



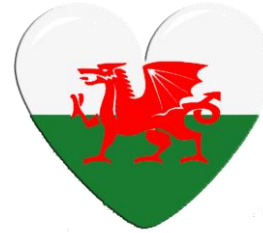
- If you received a gækkebrev from a school friend, could you guess his/her identity?
- Organise this fun game with your class and test yourself!





Hungary

Boys and girls go out to the woods and pick up **snowdrops**, then they exchange **carved wooden spoons** called **lovespoons**.



Wales

In Wales people don't celebrate Valentine's Day, but **Saint Dwynwen**, the patron saint of lovers, on 25th January. So boys and girls exchange **carved wooden spoons** on that date.

Carving a spoon can be very difficult. Why don't you try to decorate one...



La Spiga
EDIZIONI



China



Valentine's Day in China is **Qixi**, or the **Seventh Night Festival**. It falls on the seventh day of the seventh lunar month each year, around August.

According to the tradition Zhinu, a heavenly king's daughter, fell in love with a poor cowherd. They married and had two baby twins. Zhinu's father sent his queen to bring Zhinu back to the stars, but when the king heard the cries of the husband and of the children, he allowed Zhinu and her husband to meet every year on Qixi.



That night girls prepare offerings of **melon** and other carved fruits to Zhinu in hopes of finding a good husband and happiness. Then, they look at the stars to watch **Vega** and **Altair** (Zhinu and her husband) come close each other.





Japan

According to the tradition, on this day girls prepare **homemade** chocolate as a gift for boys, friends, school friends and colleagues.

On 14th March, called **White Day**, the boys have to return the gift they received on February 14th.

On this occasion the chocolate **must be white!**



South Korea

The tradition is very similar to the Japanese one, but boys and girls **who didn't receive** a present on the 14th February or on the 14th March, will eat dark bowls of **black bean-paste noodles** on 14th April.





England



According to the tradition, on the evening before Valentine's Day, girls who want **to dream and visage their future husbands** place **five bay leaves on their pillows**, one at each corner and one in the centre.

In Norfolk the **Jack Valentine** tradition survives to this day.

He's known as Old Father Valentine or Old Mother Valentine.

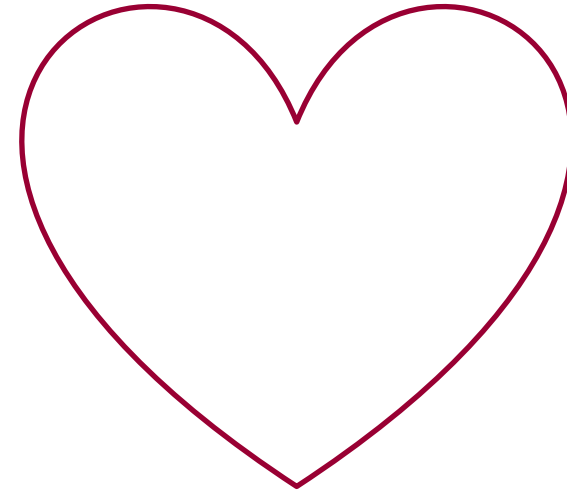
This mysterious character **knocks at doors**, leaves little presents and disappears.

Yes, he acts as a sort of Father Christmas and **children like him very much!**



Hey look! Those aren't flags of England! It must be a Jack Valentine joke!

Draw the correct flag of England into the heart!

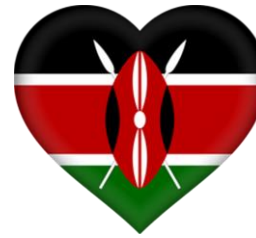
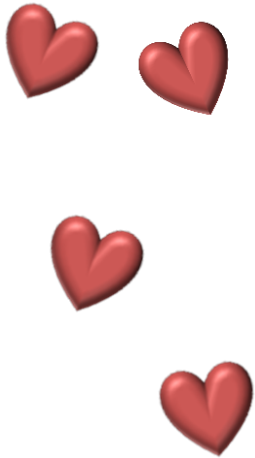




South Africa

South Africa celebrates Valentine's Day with festivals, **flowers and love cards**.

According to tradition, girls pin **the name of their love on their hearts** or on their shirtsleeves.



Kenya

The girls give **a pumpkin full of palm wine** to the boys.

The boys give **lime flat bread** in return.

Then they drink from a **cup of love**.

This way it's easier!

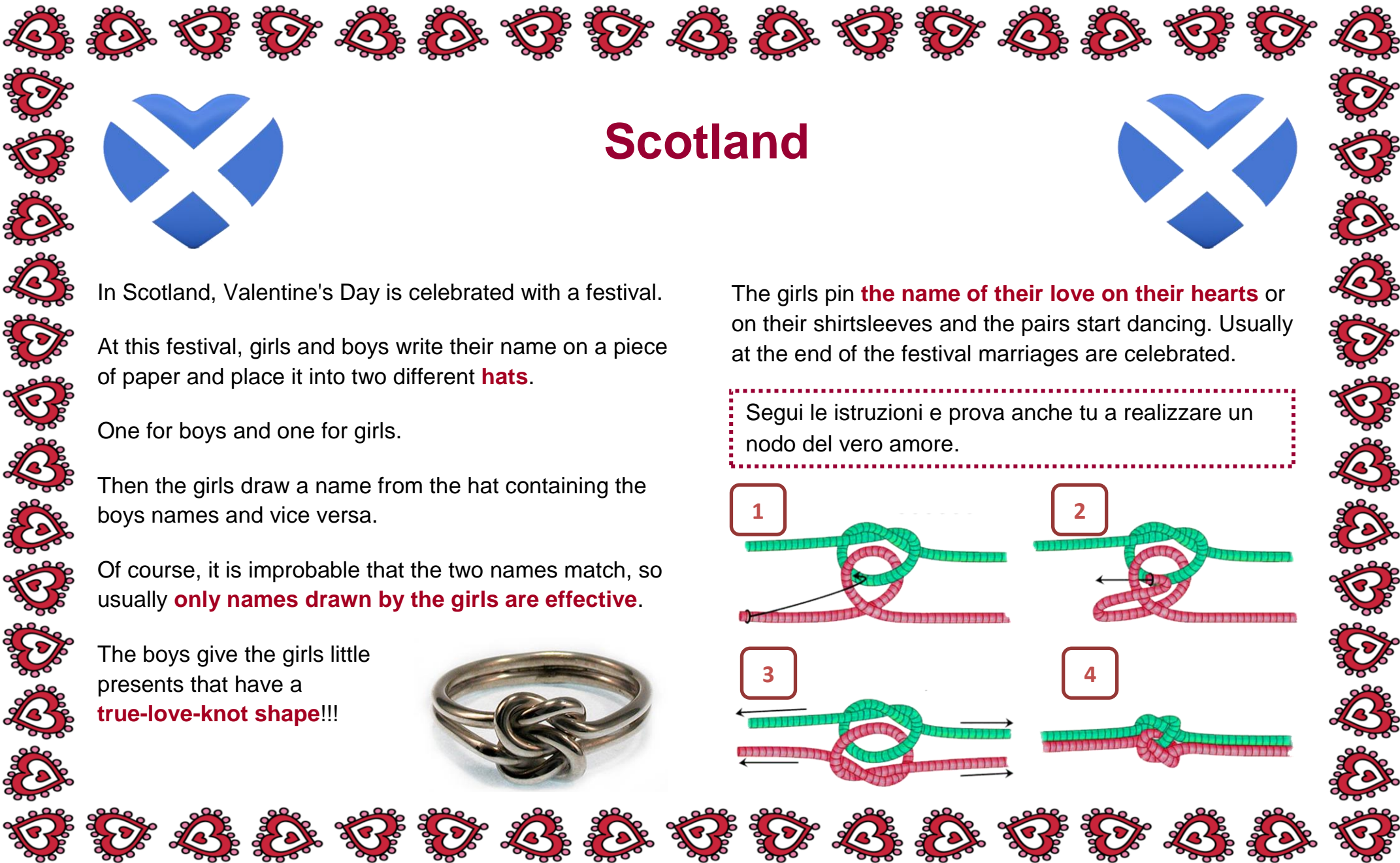


The **Samburu boys in Kenya** dance for the girls.

At the end of the dance they throw a **tuft of hair onto the face of the girls**.

If the girl is pleased, she will have **a beaded necklace** from the boy.





Scotland



In Scotland, Valentine's Day is celebrated with a festival.

At this festival, girls and boys write their name on a piece of paper and place it into two different **hats**.

One for boys and one for girls.

Then the girls draw a name from the hat containing the boys names and vice versa.

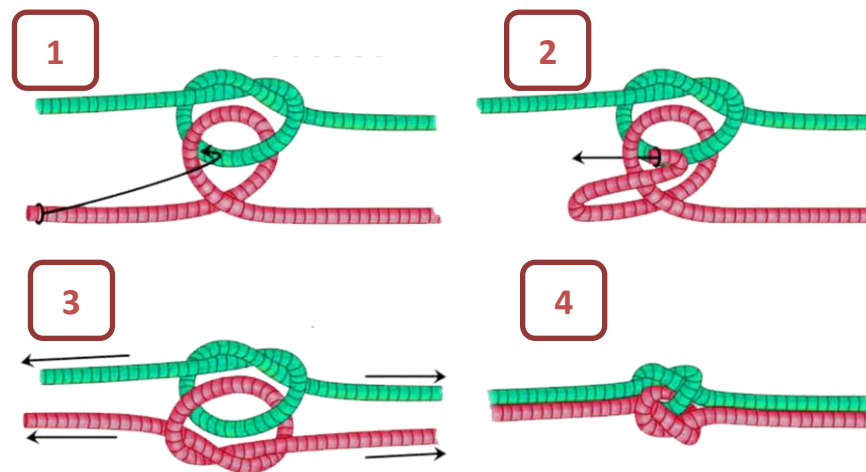
Of course, it is improbable that the two names match, so usually **only names drawn by the girls are effective**.

The boys give the girls little presents that have a **true-love-knot shape!!!**



The girls pin **the name of their love on their hearts** or on their shirtsleeves and the pairs start dancing. Usually at the end of the festival marriages are celebrated.

Segui le istruzioni e prova anche tu a realizzare un nodo del vero amore.



Credits:

Text: Mariagrazia Bertarini and Valentina Falanga

Photo: Shutterstock.com

