

What's included?

10 reading passages

Fluency tracker

valentine's day Morphology Vocabulary

Name: _____ Date: _____

An Unexpected History

Every February, Valentine's Day is celebrated with cards, chocolates, and decorations shaped like hearts. However, the origins of this holiday are far more **complex** than many people realise. Long before Valentine's Day became associated with romance, it had historical and cultural roots that continue to influence modern traditions.

The holiday is named after **Saint Valentine**, a figure surrounded by mystery. According to popular legends, Valentine was a Roman priest who performed **illegal** marriages during a time when the emperor believed unmarried soldiers were more disciplined. Valentine's actions showed **loyalty** and compassion, but they also led to his imprisonment and eventual execution. Over time, his story became connected with ideas of love and **devotion**.

During the Middle Ages, Valentine's Day developed a more romantic reputation. Poets believed February 14 marked the beginning of the mating season for birds, which strengthened the holiday's symbolic connection to affection. Written messages of admiration, now called valentines, became increasingly **popular**, especially among the upper classes.

In modern society, Valentine's Day has become highly **commercialised**. Shops promote gifts as a way to express feelings, and social media often influences how people celebrate. While some critics argue that the holiday places unnecessary pressure on relationships, others believe it encourages **thoughtful** gestures and appreciation.

Although Valentine's Day has changed over centuries, its central message remains meaningful: expressing care, kindness, and connection with others.

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Comprehension activities

Word list

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Answer the comprehension questions based on the story.

Question	Answer
What were some of the original purposes of Valentine's Day?	
Why did Saint Valentine get into trouble with Roman authorities?	
How did Valentine's Day become linked to romance during the Middle Ages?	
What does the author mean by saying Valentine's Day is "commercialised"?	
What message does the author believe Valentine's Day still communicates today?	

Match the word to its meaning. Use the story to find context clues.

Word	Meaning
complex	made against the law
illegal	having many parts or ideas
devotion	turned into something that is sold for profit
popular	well-liked by many people
commercialised	strong love, loyalty, or commitment

valentine's day Morphology Vocabulary

A Secret Valentine

Word List

Word	Morpheme Structure	Root Meaning	Origin
commitment	commit + -ment	join, entrust	Latin <i>committere</i>
compassion	com- + pass + -ion	suffer	Latin <i>compati</i>
defiance	de- + fi + -ance	trust, faith	Latin <i>fidere</i>
unlawful	un- + law + -ful	rule	Old English
principles	princip + -le + -s	first, chief	Latin <i>principium</i>
sacrifice	sacri + fic + -e	sacred	Latin <i>sacrificum</i>
devotion	de- + vote + -ion	vow	Latin
tradition	tradit + -ion	hand over	Latin <i>tradere</i>
celebrated	celebr + -ate + -ed	honour	Latin <i>celebrare</i>
associated	ad- + soci + -ate + -ed	join	Latin <i>socius</i>



Why you'll love it!

- ✓ Fiction & non-fiction reading passages
- ✓ Engaging morphology reading material
- ✓ Fluency passages for older students
- ✓ Unique way to explore etymology

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An Unexpected History

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Passage Titles

- An Unexpected History
- A Secret Valentine
- Symbols and Meanings
- The Valentine that Wasn't Sent
- Changing Valentine's Messages
- A Different Kind of Valentine
- The Science of Feelings
- Pausing Before the Reply
- Valentine's Traditions
- More than One Day



Ways to use this product.

✓ Independent morphology practice

✓ Explicit morphology teaching

✓ Small group reading task

✓ Morphology notebook printable

✓ Homework task

✓ Early finisher activity

Valentine's Day Morphology Vocabulary

A Secret Valentine

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An Unexpected History

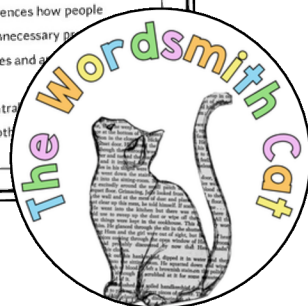
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Teach morphology!

Help students understand word structure.

Boost vocabulary and comprehension skills.

Enhance decoding and word recognition ability.

Valentine's Day Morphology Vocabulary

Symbols and Meanings

Word List

Word	Morpheme Structure	Root Meaning	Origin
central	centr + -al	centre	Latin <i>centrum</i> (from Greek <i>kentron</i>)
symbolic	symbol + -ic	sign, mark	Greek <i>symbolon</i>
derived	de- + riv + -ed	draw from	Latin <i>derivare</i>
intention	in- + tend + -ion	stretch toward	Latin <i>intendere</i>
traditional	tradit + -ion + -al	hand down	Latin <i>tradere</i>
evolution	e- + volu + -tion	roll out	Latin <i>evolvere</i>
commercialised	commerc(e) + -ial + -ise + -ed	trade	Latin <i>commercium</i>
critically	critic + -al + -ly	judge	Greek <i>kritikos</i>
symbolic	symbol + -ic	sign	Greek
mythology	myth + -ology	story, study	Greek <i>mythos</i> + <i>logos</i>

