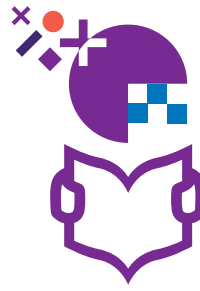


That's Interesting!



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A worksheet for adults to practise reading, writing, spelling and numbers.

Valentine's Day



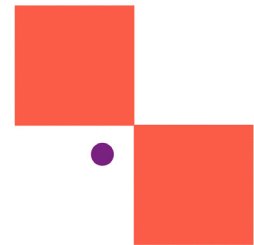
Valentine's Day, which falls on 14 February every year, is a day when cards, flowers and other gifts are sent to loved ones, all in the name of Saint Valentine. But who is this saint and where did these traditions come from?



The church recognises three saints by the name Valentine, all of them killed for their Christian beliefs. The first Valentine who lived in the third century was a bishop in Rome. The emperor of Rome at the time, was building a huge Roman army and passed a law that soldiers were not allowed to marry as he believed that single men made better soldiers. Valentine, it is said, continued to hold marriage ceremonies in private for the young lovers. When the emperor found out that his law was being disobeyed, he ordered that Valentine, the bishop, was put to death.

Others believe the festival of Valentine is named after another bishop named Valentine who also lived near Rome around this time. He was also put to death by the Roman Emperor for his Christian beliefs.

Another Valentine, who also lived around this time, was put to death for helping people escape from Roman prisons. They were in prison because of their Christian faith and were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, while in prison himself, Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting to a girl he fell in love with. She was said to be the daughter of the prison guard and she often visited Valentine in prison.



Before his death, it is said that he wrote her a letter and signed it “From your Valentine,” an expression that is still in use today.

An interesting fact that is not widely known is that the remains of Saint Valentine along with a vial of his blood are kept in a church in Dublin. The story goes back to the 1800s.

An Irish priest, Father John Spratt, had travelled to Rome where he was invited to give a speech. The pope at the time, Pope Gregory XVI, who was a great admirer of the priest gave him the gift of Saint Valentine’s remains and a vial of his blood. This wooden box with a silk ribbon and a wax seal travelled back to Ireland with Father Spratt in November of 1836. Today it remains in a shrine to the right of the main altar in the White Friar Street Church, also known as the Church of Mount Carmel, in Dublin’s inner city.



**Shrine of Saint
Valentine in White
friar church Dublin**

Every year on Saint Valentine’s Day a ceremony known as the Blessing of the Rings takes place here where couples, intending to get married, are invited to attend.

Legends also tell us that many hundreds of years before Christian times, people held a festival around mid-February to celebrate the end of winter and the fertility of the land and the people. Animals were killed and the skin and blood of the animal was spread on the land and on young women and men. Young people would also choose a partner for marriage on this day. By the 5th century, the pope had banned this festival and replaced it with the feast day of Saint Valentine.

We cannot be sure if any of these legends are true but in any case, Valentine has always been associated with romance and his feast day is now celebrated widely across Europe and America.

It has become the second highest card-selling event, after Christmas. Flower shops eagerly look forward to this day every year as sales of flowers increase hugely with roses, especially, being the favourite flower of romantic couples.



“ai” sounds like “ay” (as in day)

aid

aid
paid
afraid
raid

ail

fail	snail
mail	nail
rail	jail
tail	

ain

pain	complain
rain	paint
main	faint
train	again

air

air	fair
hair	stairs
pair	
chair	

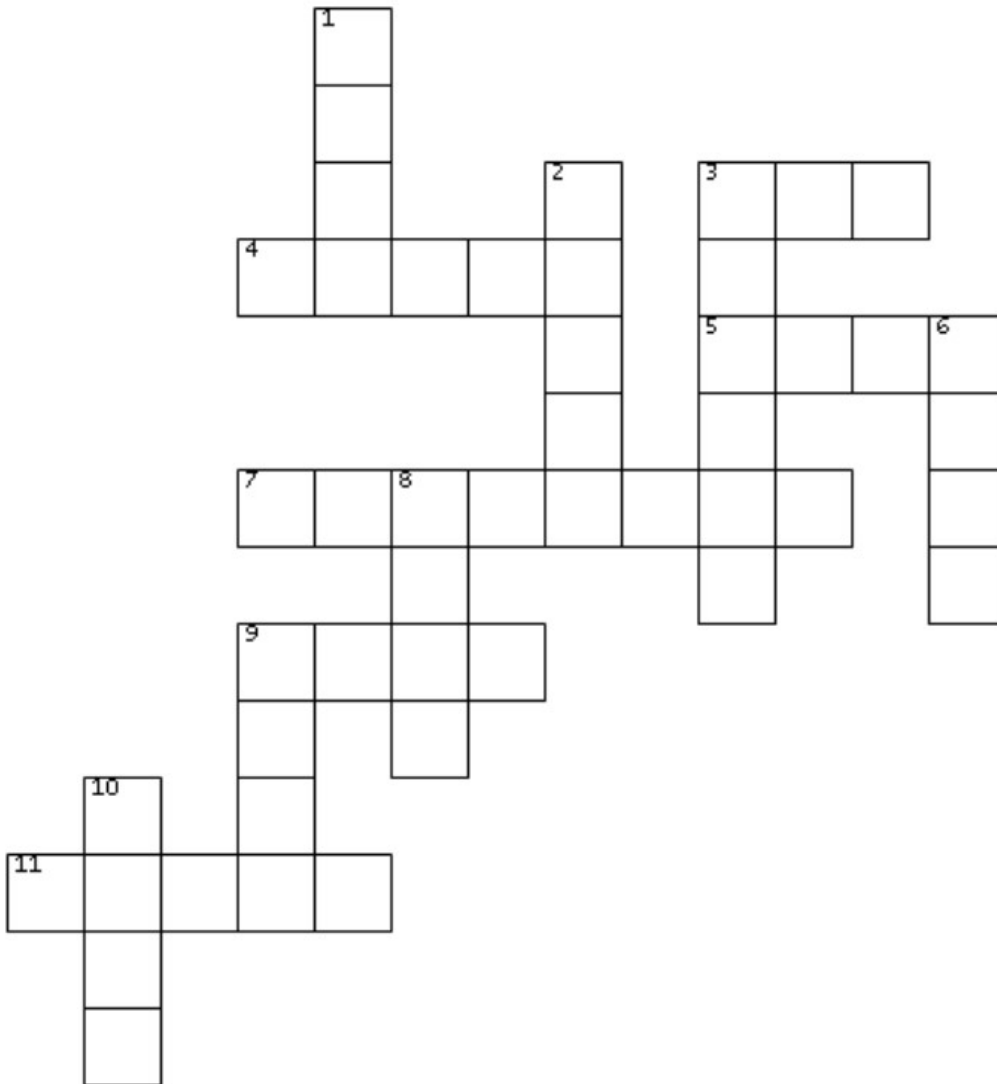
Finish these sentences with words from the list.

1. The room was so hot, I felt I might _____.
2. I ran up the _____ to my bedroom.
3. We get a lot of _____ in Ireland so the roads are very wet.
4. I hit the _____ with a hammer.
5. I bought a new _____ of runners.
6. I need to _____ my living room walls, to freshen up the room.
7. Do not be _____, it will not hurt.
8. If you are not happy you can always _____ to the manager.
9. I love to sit in my comfortable _____.
10. A dog likes to wag his _____.

Crossword



The answers to the clues are all words from the list of “ai” words on the previous page.



Clues

Across

3. You breathe this in.
4. A type of transport.
5. Water that falls from the sky.
7. When you are not happy you might _____.
9. When I pay a bill, I get them to mark it _____.
11. Colour for the walls.

Down

1. You can buy and sell horses at a horse _____.
2. When you move slowly you are said to be like this.
3. Another word for being scared.
6. A hammer and a _____.
8. In America the postman is called the _____ man.
9. I had a bad _____ in my tooth.
10. When you do not pass the test, you _____.

Maths - Numbers Quiz



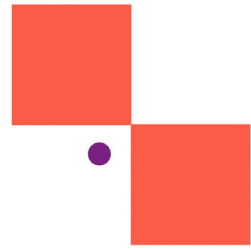
(The answers are all numbers)

1. How many days are in a Leap Year?
2. How many months have just 30 days?
3. On what date do we celebrate Saint Brigid's Day?
4. How many counties in Ireland?
5. How many eggs in 2 ½ dozen?
6. How many grams in a kilogram?
7. What is $120 \times 10 = ?$
8. $\frac{1}{4}$ is the same as ____%
9. If I cycle 8 km in an hour, how many km will I cycle in 3 ½ hours?
10. I can buy 6 apples for €4.80, how much will I pay for 5?
11. What is 8.15 pm in the 24-hour clock?
12. How much is it to post a letter in Ireland?
13. My house insurance is €420. If I pay it monthly, how much will I pay every month?
14. Mary was born in 1978, John was born in 2011. How much older is Mary?
15. I bought 2½ kg of beef for €17. How much is it per kg?
16. 75% is the same as what fraction?

Answers

1). 366 2) 4, 3.) 1 Feb, 4) 32 5) 30, 6) 1000, 7) 1200, 8) 25%, 9) 28km 10) €4.00, 11) 20.15, 12) €1.40, 13) €35 14) 33 years 15) €6.80 16) $\frac{3}{4}$

Notes



Further help is available

If you need help with these worksheets, or with reading, writing, maths or digital skills, you can contact the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA).



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You can study online on our Learn with NALA website www.learnwithnala.ie or with a tutor over the phone or we can give details of your local centre.



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