

Teacher's Notes

Love around the world



Type of activity: information gap, reading

Focus: Valentine's Day traditions around the world

Level: pre-intermediate

Time: 45 minutes

Preparation:

- one set of cut-up Country Cards A and B per pair of students
- one copy of the Student's Worksheet per student

Procedure:

1. Write "Valentine's Day" on the board. Elicit the date of the celebration and some symbols and traditions that are connected with it. Record key vocabulary on the board (e.g. love, a heart, a couple, to exchange cards, a secret note, to give presents / flowers / chocolates, etc.).
2. Tell the students that they are going to learn about Valentine's Day traditions around the world. Divide the students into pairs and distribute Country Cards A and B. The students work in pairs, asking and answering questions to complete the table - draw their attention to the model in the speech bubble ("How is love celebrated in + country name ?"). When they have finished, let them compare their tables in pairs and add missing information or correct spelling mistakes. Follow with a comprehension check with the whole group, e.g. "Is Valentine's Day celebrated on the 14th of February in Wales?", "Who gives presents on the 14th of February in Japan?", etc.

3. Distribute the Student's Worksheets. The students work individually, reading and completing the texts with some of the names of the countries and sentences from the table. When they have finished, let them compare their answers with a partner and make corrections. Check with the whole group.

Key:

1. Brazil / Valentine's Day is not celebrated. / The 12th of June is Lover's Day.
2. South Korea / Women give presents on the 14th of February, men on the 14th of March.
3. Sweden / Tons of flowers are given on the 14th of February.
4. Estonia / The 14th of February is Friends' Day.
4. Divide the students into groups of four and assign one of the completed texts to each person in a group. The students should read their text once again and try to remember as much as they can. Give them one or two minutes to do this. Then ask everyone to put their materials face down and work in groups, with each member of the group re-telling the information in their text. Monitor and help as they do this. When the groups have finished, hold a feedback session.
5. Ask the students which of the traditions that they learned about are the strangest, the most interesting or surprising, in their opinion.

