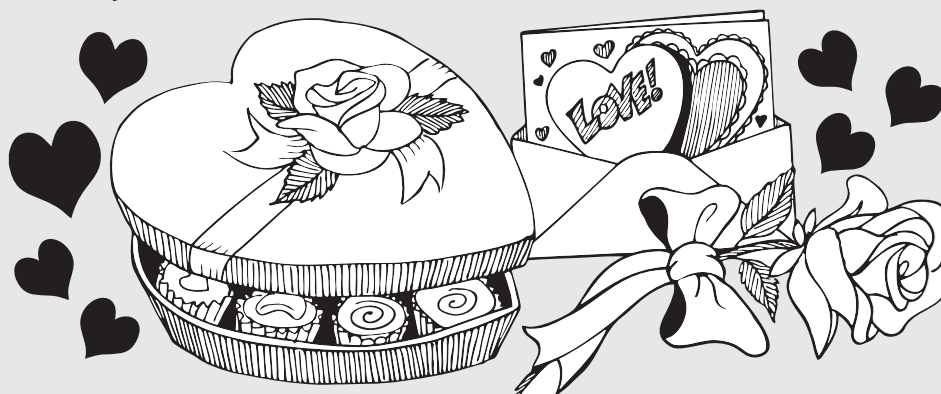


Valentine's Day

February 14

Love, love, love, kisses, and hugs! On Valentine's Day, we celebrate how much we love the people in our lives. It could be our parents, our grandparents, siblings, friends, or that special someone! Valentine's Day is celebrated by giving gifts of flowers, cards, and especially candy. Fancy boxes of chocolates in red heart-shaped boxes are one very popular gift on Valentine's Day.



Summary of Activities

Reading: Literature

Two Poems About Love—two poems with a compare-and-contrast activity

Reading: Informational Text

Everybody Loves Chocolate!—nonfiction passage with comprehension questions

Writing

Valentine Acrostic—activity in which students write acrostics for loved ones

Speaking & Listening

Poetry Recital—Have students practice reciting the two love poems aloud for classmates.

Vocabulary: acrostic, archaeologist, lark, linnet, Mesoamerica, Olmec, thrush



Name _____

Date _____

Two Poems About Love

Directions: Read the poems. Then complete the activity.

"Answer to a Child's Question" by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Do you ask what the birds say? The sparrow, the dove,
The linnet and thrush say, "I love and I love!"
In the winter, they're silent—the wind is so strong;
What it says, I don't know, but it sings a loud song.
But green leaves, and blossoms, and sunny warm weather,
And singing, and loving—all come back together.
But the lark is so brimful of gladness and love,
The green fields below him, the blue sky above,
That he sings, and he sings; and for ever sings he—
"I love my Love, and my Love loves me!"

"The Canary" by Elizabeth Turner

Mary had a little bird,
With feathers bright and yellow,
Slender legs—upon my word,
He was a pretty fellow!

Sweetest notes he always sung,
Which much delighted Mary;
Often where his cage was hung,
She sat to hear Canary.

Crumbs of bread and dainty seeds
She carried to him daily,
Seeking for the early weeds,
She decked his palace gaily.

This, my little readers, learn,
And ever practice duly;
Songs and smiles of love return
To friends who love you truly.

Activity: Every poem has a theme. The theme of a poem is what the poem is about. Often, poems can have similar themes that are expressed in different ways. Think carefully about the two poems that you have just read. On the back of the page, write a paragraph that compares and contrasts the themes of the poems. How are the themes alike? How are they different?



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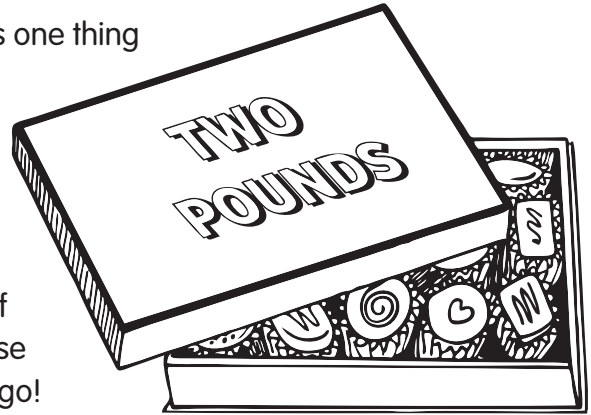
Date _____

Everybody Loves Chocolate!

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions on page 23.

People can disagree about a lot of things. But there is one thing over which there can be no debate. Everybody loves chocolate! It doesn't matter who you are, where you're from, or how old you may be—chocolate is everybody's favorite candy.

Archaeologists believe that some of the earliest people to indulge in the delicious treat were the Olmec of Mesoamerica. They have found cups that show that these people were drinking hot chocolate nearly 2,000 years ago!



How Chocolate Is Made

Chocolate is made from cocoa beans, which come from the cacao tree. These trees grow mostly in tropical rain forests.

The cacao tree produces large fruit pods. These pods are removed from the tree. Sometimes, people use a machete to remove the pods; other times, they are simply knocked off with a big stick. Next, the pods are opened. The cocoa beans and pulp are removed and put into large containers. Over the course of about seven days, the beans undergo a fermentation process. This natural process helps to dry out the beans and create the signature taste that we associate with chocolate.

The cocoa beans are then cleaned and roasted. Once the roasting is complete, the outer part of the bean is removed to extract the nib. The nib is the innermost part of the cocoa bean. Chocolate is made from this part of the bean.

The nibs of the beans are ground down until they become a liquid. This chocolate liquid is the basic ingredient for all of the different types of chocolate produced.

Chocolate Facts

Each year, about three million tons of chocolate are produced. But the production of chocolate is labor-intensive. It takes a lot of people and many hours to harvest the pods and produce the chocolate.

There are approximately 20 to 50 beans inside of each cacao pod. Take a look at the picture of the box of chocolate at the top of the page. That box contains two pounds of chocolate. To produce only two pounds of chocolate, you need 300 to 600 beans. The average person can harvest about 650 cacao pods per day. You do the math!

So, the next time you are buying that chocolate bar, think about its long journey from the rain forest to your hand.



Name _____

Date _____

Everybody Loves Chocolate! *(cont.)*

Directions: Read the passage on page 22. Then answer the questions.

1. Which of the following is an opinion?
 - a. People can disagree about a lot of things.
 - b. Everybody loves chocolate!
 - c. The production of chocolate is labor-intensive.
2. Underline one sentence in the passage that helps you understand the meaning of the phrase "labor-intensive."
3. What is the relationship between the nib and the cacao pods?
 - a. The pod is in the bean, and the bean is in the nib.
 - b. The nib is in the pod, and the pod is in the bean.
 - c. The nib is in the bean, and the bean is in the pod.



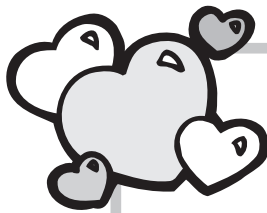
Name _____

Date _____

Valentine Acrostic

An acrostic poem is a poem in which the first letter of the first word in each line spells out a word vertically. Take a look at the example below. The poem is all about friends. The first letter of each line spells out the word *friends* vertically.

Now, it's your turn. Write an acrostic poem for someone you love and give it to him or her on Valentine's Day. You can also decorate your Valentine acrostic. Spell a word vertically, writing one letter on each line. Then write a poem about that word. Some word ideas are *Valentine*, *chocolate*, and *February*. Pick a word before you write.



Example

Fun times
Reliable and true
Important to one another
Enjoying each other
New friends and old
Doing fun things together
Stay in touch!