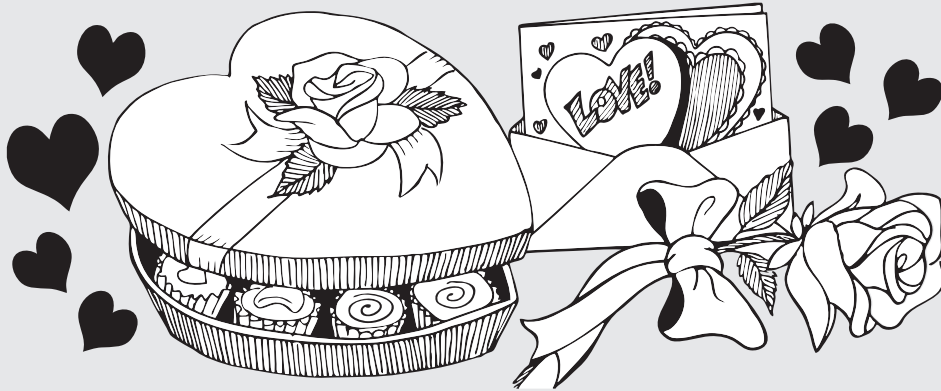


# Valentine's Day

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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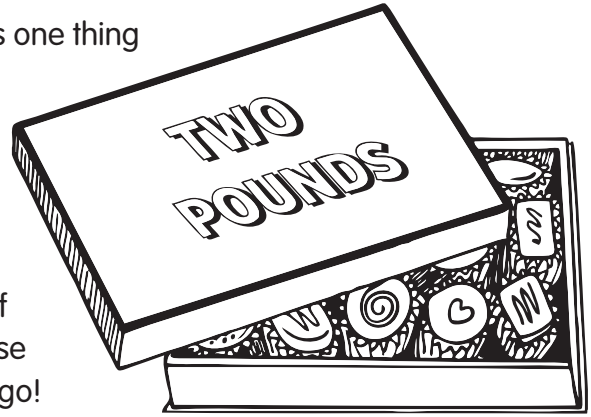
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## Everybody Loves Chocolate!

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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.



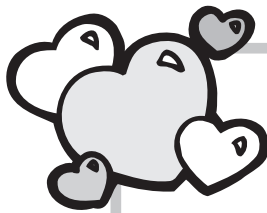
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## Valentine Acrostic

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

**F**un times  
**R**eliable and true  
**I**mportant to one another  
**E**njoying each other  
**N**ew friends and old  
**D**oing fun things together  
**S**tay in touch!




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# Answer Key

## New Year's Day Parades (page 7)

1. Designers can't decorate the floats too far in advance because flowers are perishable. Flowers can't live for very long once the blooms are cut away from the stems.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Answers will vary.

## The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom (pages 12–13)

1. b
2. b
3. c

## The Underappreciated Groundhog (pages 16–17)

1. Answers will vary.
2. a
3. Opossum: "With that long, skinny snout and those beady eyes, he'll scare the entire town right out of their pants!"

## Everybody Loves Chocolate! (pages 22–23)

1. b
2. It takes a lot of people and many hours to harvest the pods and produce the chocolate.
3. c

## Zoo Times Exclusive (pages 26–27)

1. a
2. c
3. Of course, the hyenas are banned from voting because of their refusal to refrain from hurling insults at candidates and voters.

## Lucky Charms (page 33)

1. b
2. Answers will vary.
3. c

## Irish Soda Bread (pages 38–39)

1. One of the things that makes this bread so unique is that, traditionally, it is not cooked in an oven but on a griddle or in a large cast-iron pan. Instead of yeast, baking soda is used as a leavening agent in Irish soda bread.
2. c
3. Yes, they added a cross mark to the bread to ward off evil spirits and to protect their houses.

## The Visitors from Colden 4 (pages 42–43)

1. a
2. c
3. c

## Mariachi Music, Olé! (page 50)

1. c
2. b
3. a

## Best Animal Moms (pages 55–56)

1. The average calf weighs about 250 pounds at birth, and this is after a 22-month gestation—the longest pregnancy in the animal kingdom.
2. Answers will vary.
3. c

## Freedom Is Silent (pages 59–60)

1. Answers will vary.
2. c
3. Answers will vary.

## Father's Day Facts (page 66)

1. Here are some facts and figures about fathers and things related to Father's Day.
2. b
3. Opinion; explanations will vary.

## Islam (page 71)

1. c
2. b
3. c

## Fort McHenry (pages 77–78)

1. Another issue was that American merchant seamen were being captured by the British on the high seas and forced to fight in the British Navy.
2. b
3. Answers will vary.

## Labor in the United States (page 84)

1. b
2. There was a time when there were no laws that prohibited children from working for pay. Now, there are very strict laws regarding the employment of people less than 18 years of age.
3. Answers will vary.

## Columbus's Cats (pages 87–88)

1. They were really tired.
2. b
3. They were good at sneaking around and not being noticed.

## A Brief History of Monsters (pages 95–96)

1. They both originated in books.
2. b
3. a

## A Song from War (pages 99–100)

1. Somber and serious; answers will vary.
2. Answers will vary; having to go to war and fight
3. b

## The Great Turkey Round-up (pages 104–105)

1. That's when people don't have enough to eat.
2. There is a large supply of free turkeys. They are donated to a food bank.
3. Drawings will vary.

## How to Roast a Thanksgiving Turkey (pages 106–107)

8, 7, 14, 15, 9, 13, 12, 3, 10, 1, 4, 5, 2, 6, 11

## Hanukkah Traditions (page 112)

1. b
2. a
3. Hanukkah is the celebration of a miracle in which a small supply of oil kept lamps burning in the temple.

## Christmas Cookies (page 118)

1. mouthwatering, delicious, scrumptious, flavorful, delectable
2. c
3. b

## Nguzo Saba: The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa (pages 122–123)

1. Answers will vary.
2. b
3. c