

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Valentine's Tradition

By Kelly Hashway

Amerie stared at the giant cardboard heart at the front of the classroom. Mr. Mickelson had a new project in mind, and from the looks of it, it had to do with Valentine's Day.

"Can someone tell me what this heart is?" Mr. Mickelson asked.

Amerie raised her hand. "Is it a Valentine?"

"Very good." Mr. Mickelson tugged on one edge of the heart, and it opened up. Inside it said, 'Happy Valentine's Day!' "Does anyone know how the tradition of giving Valentine's began?"



No one answered. Amerie had never thought about it before, but she'd been giving

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Val



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Valentine?"

Most of the class nodded.

"Well," Mr. Mickelson continued, "the holiday actually began in other countries before coming to America. Valentine's Day was a day to celebrate St. Valentine, a symbol for love. At that time, most people in the United States had never heard of Valentine's Day. Esther Howland received a Valentine card from one of her father's business partners in England. She loved the idea, and at nineteen years old, she began a business here in the United States.

She called her company, 'The New England Valentine Company.' People in America loved the idea of sending Valentines to loved ones, so the idea caught on."

"That's really cool, Mr. Mickelson, but why are you telling us this?" Amerie asked.

Mr. Mickelson's eyes lit up. "Because for your next class project, you'll be coming up with a new Valentine's Day tradition. You'll have to think of something that will show the spirit of the holiday in a creative way."

Amerie's mind was already working. If Esther Howland could create the Valentine card

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entered the classroom, Mr. Mickelson was writing ideas on the board for the class to vote on. Amerie wasn't sure about the idea she'd come up with. It couldn't be mailed, or wrapped, or even really given, and it didn't cost any money. But when Mr. Mickelson announced the last call for ideas, Amerie raised her hand.



"What about a Valentine's Day song? People sing Happy Birthday and go caroling at Christmas. What if Valentine's Day had a song, too?" Just as she was feeling silly for mentioning the idea, her classmates began shouting, "Yeah!"

Mr. Mickelson nodded. "I think it's unanimous. We have a song to write."

Amerie smiled. Maybe she hadn't started her own business, but she'd come up with a really fun project that just might become a tradition in her school.

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1. Esther Howland...
  - a. was the first person to send Valentines to loved ones
  - b. received many Valentines from England
  - c. started a company that made Valentine cards
  - d. wrote a song about Valentine's Day



2.



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3.

proud      embarrassed      excited      disappointed

4. Did Amerie's classmates like her idea? How do you know?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. People have been sending Valentines in America for about...
  - a. 60 years
  - b. 100 years
  - c. 160 years
  - d. 260 years

6. This story probably takes place in....
  - a. late-January
  - b. mid-February
  - c. late-February
  - d. early-March

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Match each vocabulary word on the left with the definition on the right.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ cardboard

a. small cakes

2. \_\_\_\_\_ tugged

b. island country in Europe

3. \_\_\_\_\_ business venture

c. everyone agreeing

4. \_\_\_\_\_ business partners

d. thick type of paper used to make boxes

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

A red-bordered banner containing a cartoon superhero character on the left and text on the right. The superhero is wearing a red suit with a blue cape and a shield on his chest. The text reads: "PREVIEW Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet." The word "PREVIEW" is in large, bold, red letters with a shadow effect. The text below it is in a smaller, black font.

8. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_ England

h. a custom that continues on a regular basis

❖ **Now try this:** Write a sentence using each of the vocabulary words above.

# ANSWER KEY

## Valentine's Tradition

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1. Esther Howland... **c**
  - a. was the first person to send Valentines to loved ones
  - b. received many Valentines from England
  - c. **started a company that made Valentine cards**
  - d. wrote a song about Valentine's Day
2. Before he assigned a Valentine's Day class project, Mr. Mickelson... **d**
  - a. taught his students about the history of St. Valentine
  - b. taught his student why Valentine's Day is an important holiday
  - c. taught his students how to make a Valentine card
  - d. taught his students how the tradition of sending Valentine cards began
3. When Amerie first mentioned her idea to write a song, how did she feel? (circle one)

proud

**embarrassed**

excited

disappointed



4.  **PREVIEW**  
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- 5.

6. This story probably takes place in.... **b**
  - a. late-January
  - b. **mid-February**
  - c. late-February
  - d. early-March



# ANSWER KEY

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Match each vocabulary word on the left with the definition on the right.

1. **d** cardboard
  2. **g** tugged
  3. **e** business venture
  4. **f** business partners
  5. **c** unanimous
  6. **c**
  7. **h**
  8. **b** England
- a. small cakes
  - b. island country in Europe
  - c. everyone agreeing
  - d. thick type of paper used to make boxes
  - e. business started in hopes of earning money



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❖ **Now try this:** Write a sentence using each of the vocabulary words above.