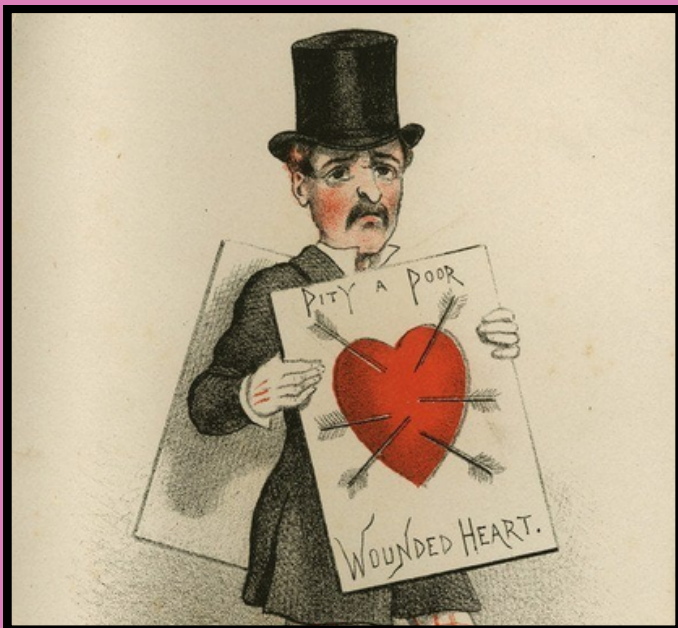


VALENTINE'S DAY FUN FACTS

This sweet celebration full of candy, flowers, and heart-shaped notes is all about spreading love. What's not to love about Valentine's Day?



VINEGAR VALENTINES

During the Victorian Era, those who sought to send away undesired suiters would anonymously mail them 'Vinegar Valentine's'. These cards often displayed a parodic image that mimicked regular Valentine's cartoons, typically to offend a trait or characteristic the person contained. Along with the name 'Vinegar Valentine', these insulting yet comical cards were also referred to as penny dreadfuls- due to only costing one penny. They were later marketed toward suffragettes, women who fought for their right to vote. Though this hurtful tradition disappeared, human nature didn't: in today's society, we just call it trolling.



RELIGIOUS RELICS

Valentine Berrio-Ochoa, also known as St. Valentine, was said to be a Roman priest who was martyred during the reign of emperor Claudius II. There are many legends as to why Valentine is so known, one being that he often defied Emperor's orders and married couples to spare the man from war. Another common belief was that while in prison for his frequent rule-breaking, he befriended the daughter of the prison guard. It is believed he miraculously healed her blindness when they met and decided to keep in contact through letters, often being signed "from your Valentine".



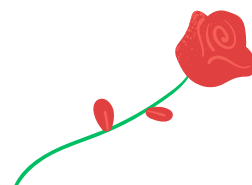
FLORAL FASCINATION

The Tradition of giving red roses may be an obvious romantic gesture today, but it wasn't until the late 17th century that giving flowers became a popular custom. It is believed King Charles II made a trip to Persia, where the "love language of flowers" was common. Charles loved the Persian custom of giving flowers as a sign of affection so much, he decided to introduce the tradition to Europe.

But before these customs, the favoritism of the red rose being a symbol of love originated from Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love, fertility, and war. In Greek mythology, she is said to have created the red rose when, rushing to the aid of her lover Adonis, she is wounded by the thorns of a white rose bush. Because of her immortality, Aphrodite's blood had stained the rose forever. This can link red roses to symbolism such as love and passion, but also pain and suffering. The myth can be perceived as the telling of a love story that transcended death and lived on beyond the lovers' own short lives. The Romans even had a festival named Rosalia, in which red roses were attributed to loved ones who have passed.

In addition to watching over love and happy marriages, Saint Valentine is also the patron saint of beekeepers, fainting, travelers, and people with epilepsy.

The "thorns" on the stems of roses aren't actually called thorns - they are technically called prickles!



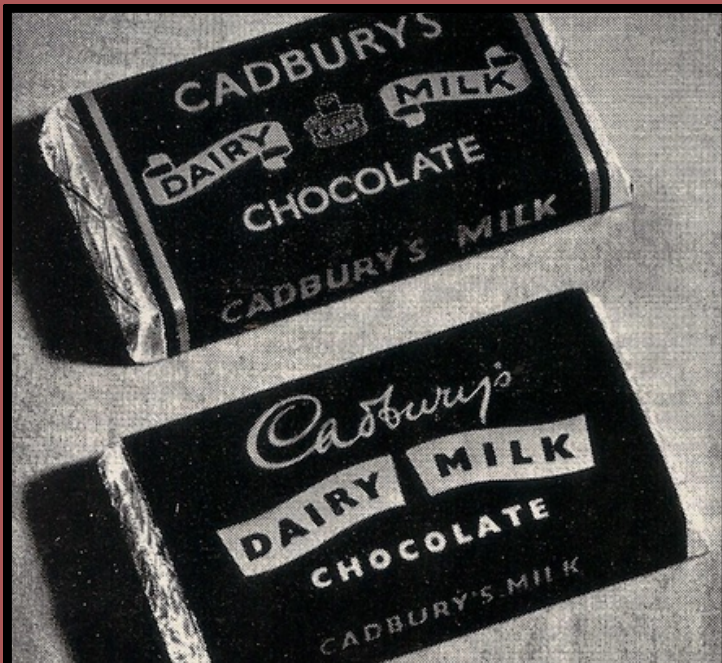
LOVELY LOVEBIRDS

"Lovebirds" is not just a term for two people in love, it is also the known nickname for the colorful Agapornis Birds. These affectionate birds are part of the parrot family and native to the continent of Africa, especially to the island of Madagascar. Lovebirds are called Lovebirds because of their natural desire to form and remain in close monogamous bonds, having only one mate at a time. They also often remain loyal to their partners during their entire lifespan, typically leading to health issues for the partner when one passes away. Though, if you are looking to get a lovebird as a pet, sometimes it can be best to own one at a time. Lovebirds often mate quickly, and many people are not prepared nor able to care for an entire family of birds. One female Lovebird can lay between 4 to 6 eggs up to 6 times a year! Additionally, birds that mate often defend each other and resist human interactions, whereas single birds are often more affectionate and willing to be held. This means that one must be willing and prepared to give their feathered friend a bird-safe place to play outside of its cage for several hours per day in order for its needs to be met. With the right amount of love and attention from their owners, Lovebirds can live up to 20 years!



Today, there are 9 different species of Lovebirds that still exist, but the most commonly owned is the Peach-Faced Lovebird- as shown above.

During World War II, women in the Whitman's Chocolate Factory production line secretly slipped handwritten notes into candy boxes to help soothe soldiers' homesickness.



CADBURY & CHOCOLATE

A man by the name of Richard Cadbury was known for his chocolate making skills, a trait passed down through generations of the Cadbury family. Cadbury had created a process that looked to extract cocoa butter straight from the cacao bean which often led to an excess amount of cocoa butter being produced. The excess butter was used in what Richard called "eating chocolates." This led to his idea of placing the eating chocolates in beautifully decorated boxes, often in the shape of a heart and meant to be reused for mementos or love letters.

Since Richard Cadbury first created the first ever heart-shaped box of chocolates for Valentine's Day in 1861, more than 36 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolates have been sold each year.



CHILD CUPID

Valentine's Day is often celebrated with candy, flowers, letters to loved ones— and images of a baby with wings that carries a bow and arrow. But despite his infant-like appearance, Cupid was once a man who had more power than any god. Before the name Cupid, Eros was said to be a very handsome and desirable man. Eros was also the son of Aphrodite, which is why his looks were also his threatening power to make people fall in love. But because people feared him rather than praised, especially women, his symbolism overtime had changed. The narrative of Eros being an intimidating and controlling god eventually turned into him being a boy who only follows the wishes of his mother pertaining to love. Based on his mother's wishes rather than his own chaotic impulses, he would use his powers to create relationships between people. Centuries later, Renaissance painters took up this imagery and depicted the Cupid figure as a child.

Cupid is believed to carry two types of arrows: Golden arrows are used to make people fall in love, whereas lead arrows are meant to make people fall out of love.