

Valentine's Day

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Valentine's Day is becoming more and more popular around the world and many people now celebrate it. This lesson gives students the chance to find out what romantic activities are available in London and choose the one that they think is the most interesting. This lesson helps to develop their extensive reading skills through engagement with an authentic website text. It also extends their vocabulary and provides them with a creative task to develop their writing skills.



Segment: secondary

Level: upper intermediate

Materials: Some of the following: Valentine's Day card, picture of a red heart, picture of a bunch of flowers, picture of a box of chocolates.

Handout and web access - www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/event/7576330-valentines-day-in-london?ref=mosaic#mBkcJiaZ2SVkFtV1.97

Procedure:

1. Show students any of the suggested pictures. Ask students if they know what these objects are celebrating (*Answer: Valentine's Day*)
2. Ask students if they know the date of Valentine's Day (*Answer: February 14th*). Ask students if they know what happens on Valentine's Day (*Answer: boys and girls send cards/flowers/gift, sometimes without their names on, to someone they love*)
3. Tell students to think of something they would like to do with the girl/boy of their dreams on Valentine's Day if they had an unlimited amount of money. Ask students to share their ideas with a partner.
4. Ask students to imagine that they are going to spend Valentine's Day in London. Explain that they are going to explore a website that suggests different activities for them to do for a romantic day!
5. Distribute one copy of the handout to each student. Ask them to work in small groups of four. Tell them to complete the task in **Part A**
6. Ask groups to visit the webpage listed above and see how many of the places that they wrote down in **Part A** are mentioned in the information about London.
7. Ask the class if they found any of the places they wrote down in **Part A**.

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8. Next ask groups to choose one of the sections from **Part B** and put a tick in the column on the right hand side of the table.
9. Tell groups they are going to choose an activity from this section and find out more information about it. Ask groups to answer the questions about their chosen activity in **Part C** on their handouts. (*Tell them not to worry if they can't find the answer to Question 2*). Give them 20 minutes to complete **Part C**.
10. Invite selected groups to tell the class which activity they chose and why.



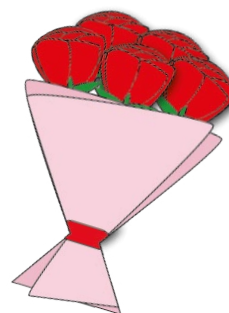
Follow-up: vocabulary

1. Ask students to go to **Part D** of their handout. Then check the meaning of the words/phrases in a learner's dictionary such as the Oxford Learner's Dictionary online: www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com
2. Tell students to record 5 new words/phrases from their handout and learn them.



Follow-up: designing a webpage or brochure

1. Write the following sentences on the board:
Discover London's romantic side...
Watch the sun set over London...
Visit Kensington Palace...
2. Underline the verb in each of these sentences. Ask students what part of speech these verbs are (*Answer: imperative form for instructions*).
3. Ask students to work in small groups. Explain that they are going to design a webpage or brochure to show the romantic activities in their town or city.
4. Tell students they should design their webpage or brochure in a similar way to the website on London. Suggest they decide on 3 or 4 sections (*Where to eat/Daytime ideas/Evening activities/etc*) and write 1 or 2 activities for each. Remind them to use the imperative form for each activity.
5. Invite each group to present their designs and vote on the best one.



Valentine's Day - Handout

Part A

Write down 3 things you can do or see in London:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Now go to this webpage - www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/event/7576330-valentines-day-in-london?ref=mosaic#mBkcJiaZ2SVkFtV1.97

Can you find any of the things you wrote down above on the webpage?



Part B

The webpage has the following sections:

| Sections | ✓ |
|--|---|
| • Romantic views of London | |
| • Where to eat on Valentine's Day in London | |
| • Romantic daytime ideas | |
| • Evening Valentine's Day activities in London | |
| • Valentine's Day London adventures | |
| • Alternative Valentine's Day events in London | |

In your group tick (✓) the section you would like to know more about.



Part C

Now choose an interesting activity in the section you ticked. Read the details about it. Answer the questions on the next page (if you can) about the activity you have chosen:

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Activity:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Where is it in London? | |
| 2. What time does it open? | |
| 3. Why is this activity interesting? | |
| 4. Why is this activity romantic? | |

Part C



Check the meaning of the following words/phrases in your dictionary:

| Word/phrase | Meaning |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| To be loved-up | |
| Stunning (views) | |
| Charming (events) | |
| Quirky (things to do) | |
| A getaway (to London) | |
| To sip on (a drink) | |
| To take a stroll | |
| To tuck into (a meal) | |
| Cosy (pub) | |
| To go stargazing | |
| To watch a blockbuster (film) | |
| To splash out on (a tour) | |
| Inflatable (kayak) | |

