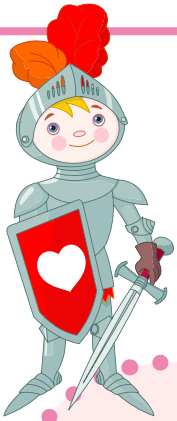


# How Did Valentine's Day Begin?



Valentine's Day is a fun celebration of love that began hundreds of years ago. While we know who the day is named after – St. Valentine – nobody seems to know exactly how or why the special celebration began.

## Legend #1

Long ago in Ancient Rome, Emperor Claudius wanted to have the biggest and best army in the world. He thought his soldiers would be better fighters if they did not have wives back at home, so he made it a crime for any of his soldiers to marry. St. Valentine did not agree with this. To help, he married young couples in secret.

## Legend #2

St. Valentine ran into some troubles in Ancient Rome and was actually sent to jail. While there, he met the jailor's daughter. The daughter visited St. Valentine, and the two fell in love. Sadly, the couple could not be together, but St. Valentine sent the woman a love letter, signing it, "From your Valentine."



Read the two legends above. Each describes a popular belief about how Valentine's Day started. Fill out the Venn diagram below. How are the legends similar? How are they different?

