

Valentinstag

Valentine's Day

Background information

Germany has only recently started to celebrate St Valentine's Day. As in this country, it is celebrated on 14th February, when people send romantic cards and presents to each other.

Here is a traditional German Valentine's Day Poem:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Rosen, Tulpen, Nelken | Roses, tulips and carnations |
| Alle Blumen welken | All flowers wilt |
| Nur die eine welkt nicht | The only one that doesn't |
| Und die heißt Vergissmeinnicht. | Is called a 'Forget me not'. |

Teaching activities

- ◆ Make a Valentine's Day card or poster. Write some words on the board to help:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Einen schönen Valentinstag | Happy Valentine's Day |
| Lieber ... | Dear ... (boy) |
| Liebe ... | Dear ... (girl) |
| Mit Liebe von | Love from |

- ◆ Make a 'Chatterbox' finger game (see page 20 for instructions).

Here are some suggestions for things that could be written inside:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ich liebe dich | I love/like you |
| Ich liebe dich nicht | I don't love/like you |
| Du bist wunderbar | You're great |
| Willst du mit mir ausgehen? | Will you go out with me? |
| Willst du mich heiraten? | Will you marry me? |
| Wie heißt du? | What is your name? |

Schlüsselwörter

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| die Liebe | love |
| die Freundschaft | friendship |
| Ich liebe dich | I love/like you |
| Ich liebe dich nicht | I don't love/like you |
| Willst du mich heiraten? | Will you marry me? |
| Einen schönen Valentinstag | Happy Valentine's Day |
| Lieber ... | dear ... (boy) |
| Liebe ... | dear ... (girl) |
| Mit Liebe von | love from |
| du bist wunderbar | you're great |
| Willst du mit mir ausgehen? | Will you go out with me? |
| Wie heißt du? | What's your name? |

Pupils could use any German vocabulary they have learned for the words on the outside flaps, eg colours, numbers etc.

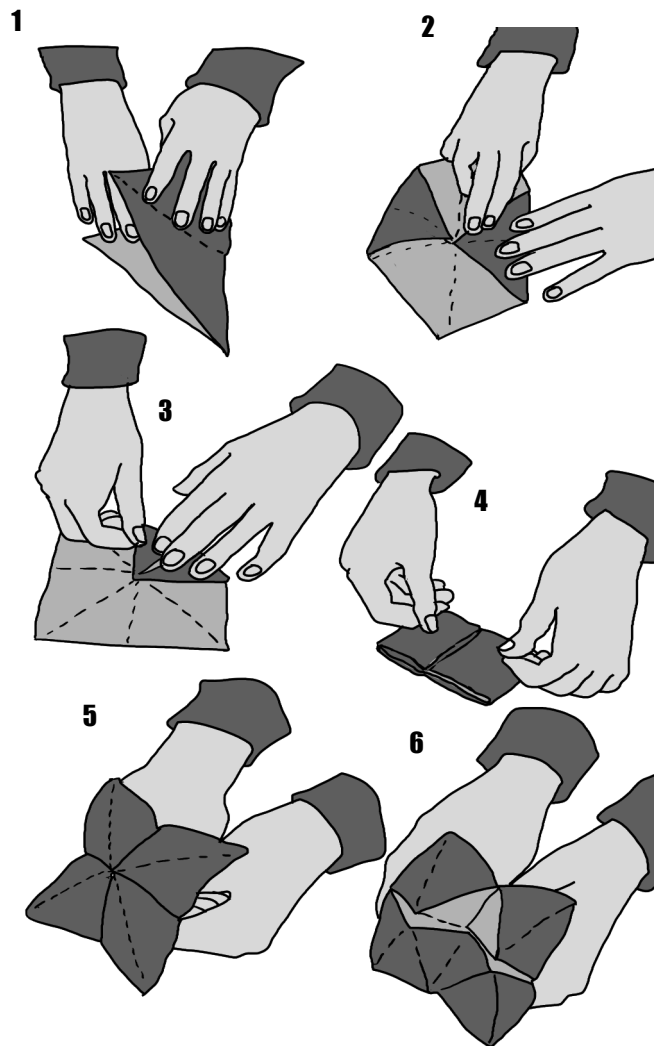
- ◆ Children could use the guided sheet on page 21 to design a Valentine's Day card or poster using German vocabulary.
- ◆ You could try some freeze framing. Ask some children to freeze in a traditional Valentine's Day pose (for example, man on one knee, proposing) then, as a class, discuss what each character is thinking, feeling and saying.

Himmel und Hölle

Chatterbox

How to make a chatterbox

- 1 Fold a square piece of paper in half vertically and horizontally, and then unfold.
- 2 Fold all four corners so they meet at the centre point. Turn the folded square over.
- 3 Fold all four new corners so they meet at the centre point.
- 4 Fold the top edge to meet the bottom edge, crease the fold and unfold again. Fold the right edge to meet the left one, crease and unfold.
- 5 Hold the chatterbox as shown. Slip the pointer finger and thumb from each hand under the square flaps at the back, pinching the folds.
- 6 Practise opening and closing the 'mouth' of the chatterbox.
- 7 Write a word on each of the four corners. Open the chatterbox up and write other words on all eight triangles, or put coloured dots. Finally, lift up the flaps and write your chosen sentences underneath each triangle. You are now ready to play!



How to use a chatterbox

- ◆ Ask your friend to read each of the words displayed on the outside of the chatterbox and to choose one word. Spell out the word, using the German alphabet, opening and closing the chatterbox as you say each letter.
- ◆ At the end of spelling this word, four of the inside words, or coloured dots, will be displayed. Ask your friend to read, or name, them and to choose one.
- ◆ Spell out that chosen word, opening and closing the 'bird's beak' again as you say each letter. At the end of this spelling, four of the inside words will be displayed. It may be the same four words or it may be the other four words.
- ◆ Ask your friend to read these four words and to choose one again. Open up the chosen flap.
- ◆ Read out the sentence under the flap and see how your partner responds!

Valentinstag



Name:

Datum:

I learned about *Valentinstag* in Germany

Design a Valentine's Day card or poster. Use some of the German words we have learned.

Play with your 'Chatterbox' with your friends. In this box write down the German words that you chose to use.

Extension activities

- ◆ Can you compare and contrast how you celebrate 'Valentine's Day?'
- ◆ Write a letter to an imaginary or real German person to tell them how you celebrate.