

Valentine's Day Around the World

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Good morning, UNAN! Today is Friday, February 22nd, 2019.

Last week, on February 14th, was Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day is a day for love, but it is celebrated differently all over the world. In Japan, women give chocolates to men. One month later, on March 14th, is "White Day," where men must return chocolates to the women. In America, and many other countries in the West, people give each other Valentine's cards with special messages, and gifts like chocolates, flowers and stuffed animals. Couples also plan romantic dinner dates. There is no "White Day" in America, or in many other countries around the world. In Germany, lovers exchange not only chocolates and flowers, but also something else special: a pig! A pig is a sign of luck and lust, so people give it in the form of a picture, ornament or chocolate. In Taiwan, it is most popular to give flowers on Valentine's Day, specifically roses. The number and color of the roses means different things. Giving one red rose means a simple "only love," giving 99 roses means "love forever," and giving 108 roses means "Will you marry me?" In the Philippines, Valentine's Day is a popular day for weddings. Many couples choose to get married on this day because it is so romantic. South Korea is similar to Japan with Valentine's Day and White Day, but they also have Black Day on April 14th. Black Day is a day for single people who did not receive any gifts to get together and eat jajangmyeon, a black bean-paste noodle dish, and share their sadness. They are sad because they don't have a boyfriend or girlfriend to share the holiday with. Which Valentine's Day tradition is your favorite?

