

## Valentine's Day Cards

Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, though written Valentine's didn't begin to appear until after 1400. By the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, it was common for friends and lovers to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes. By the early 1900s printed ready-made cards gained popularity as they were an easy way for people to express their emotions.

Early Valentine's cards often included lace, ribbon and a colourful image.

### How to Make a vintage inspired Valentine's card

You will need:

Piece of 8.5 x 11 white cardstock

Piece of white printer paper

Black tea bag

Foam Brush

Computer and colour printer

Glue stick

Scissors

Embellishments like lace, ribbon, yarn, stickers, fancy papers, etc.

Instructions:

First, we start by making the cardstock look old (this will form the base of our card). To do so, steep one tea bag in boiling water and let it sit for 5 minutes. Then using a brush, paint the tea onto the cardstock. As it dries, it will start to look like old paper! Brown water colour paint could also be used to create the same affect. Once dry, fold it in half to create the shape of your card.

Next choose one of our valentine's cards to use (or draw your own) and print using your printer. Once printed cut the image out and glue onto the card stock. Note: you may need/want to size the image accordingly.

From here, embellish your card using things like lace, ribbon, sticks, fancy papers, etc.



*Did you know?* The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London, following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt.