

Chinese Valentine's Day

Name: Beth Euler (Adapted from a speech by Lishan on MindTap)

General Purpose: To inform

Specific Purpose: The audience will learn about the Chinese Valentine's Day by comparing it to the Western Valentine's Day.

INTRODUCTION

[INTRO SLIDE]

{PAUSE...EYE CONTACT before beginning}

Catchy Attention Getter: Look at this picture. [GALAXY SLIDE] Do you see the universe? Stars? Romantic story? I see love. This picture (as Joseph Hincks references in his 2017 article in *Time Magazine*) should remind us of the story of Niulang and Zhinü and the Heavenly River of Stars, which is the origin of the Chinese Valentine's Day. [BLANK SLIDE]

Central Idea: Comparing the stories and traditions associated with Western and Chinese Valentine's Days can help us come to a better understanding of Chinese culture.

Appeal to the Audience: In a survey conducted with my students a year ago, 80% of them did not know about the Chinese Valentine's Day, and 90% did not know its origin. However, 100% of them knew the date of the Western Valentine's Day, but just 10% of them knew why we celebrate this day.

Preview Points: Due to these findings, today I will present to you...

1. when these holidays are celebrated
2. the origins of these days, and
3. the cultural differences between the celebrations.

Transition to Main Point I: First, let's learn about when these days occur...

[1:25]

BODY

I. Different calendar dates

A. (ACCORDING to "History of Valentine's Day," *A & E Television Networks*, 2017)

Western Valentine's Day – Feb. 14

1. St. Valentine
2. Martyred and buried north of Rome on Feb. 14

B. (Hincks, STATES) Chinese Valentine's Day or Qixi {key-she}

1. Seventh day of seventh lunar month
2. August 14th this year; August 4, 2022

Transition to Main Point II: Now that we know the dates for these celebrations, let's look into the different reasons for celebration.

[2:25]

II. Different origins

B. (REFERRING BACK to “History of Valentine’s Day” documentary)

Western Valentine’s Day – death of St. Valentine

1. Roman priest of the Third century
2. Emperor of Rome
 - a. Forbade marriage of young men
 - b. Made better soldiers
 - c. St. Valentine – secret marriages

C. (Chen Weihau, “A Valentine’s Day for All to Celebrate,” Aug. 29, 2017)

REVEALS THE STORY OF

Chinese Valentine’s Day – Niulang and Zhinü allowed to meet

1. Niulang – poor but handsome boy
 - a. Owns nothing but old ox
 - b. Ox can talk
 - c. Immortal from heaven
2. Zhinü – daughter of emperor of heaven
 - a. Good at handcrafting
 - b. Especially weaving clothing
3. Ox – fulfill one of Niulang’s wishes
 - a. Wished to marry beautiful girl
 - b. Takes Niulang to heaven
 - c. Niulang meets Zhinü
 - d. Fall in love, return to Earth, marry, have two children
4. Could not be together
 - a. Marriage between human and god not permitted
 - b. **(AGAIN Hincks NOTES)** Zhinü’s empress mother angered
 - i. could not marry a mortal
 - ii. called Zhinü back to heaven
 - iii. Niulang tried to follow
 - iv. Her mother tore the sky to separate them
 - v. The rip = Heavenly River of Stars or The Milky Way

- c. Because of their love, her mother
 - i. Lets them meet once a year
 - ii. Seventh day of the seventh lunar month
 - iii. Across a bridge of magpies (birds)

[CLICK SLIDE – PIC] – *EXPLAIN* – [BLANK SLIDE]

Transition to Main Point III: Both Western and Chinese cultures celebrate Valentine’s Day for love, but there are cultural differences.

[5:50]

III. (Peter Ford, “Valentine’s Day with a Chinese Twist,” 2012) **EXPLAINS HOW**

Western and Chinese cultures celebrate Valentine’s Day differently.

A. West

- 1. Send gifts, such as flowers, chocolates, candy and cards
- 2. To people they love [SLIDE – BLANK SLIDE]

B. China

- 1. About longing for love

2. Girls

- a. Offer fruit and burn incense to Zhinü
- b. Scarves and hats – Zhinü weaver of clothing
- c. Pray
 - i. have good skills
 - ii. find a satisfactory boyfriend/mate

d. (Christina Zhao, “Qixi Festival,” Sept. 2018) **ADDS**

girls often burn paper offerings to Zhinü

3. Lovers

- a. Pray that they will be blessed
- b. Pray for their love and happiness [SLIDE – BLANK SLIDE]

Transition to Conclusion: Let’s review what has been presented about Valentine’s Day...

[6:55]

CONCLUSION

Summarizing Statements:

1. The Western Valentine's Day always falls on February 14, and the Chinese Valentine's Day is the seventh day of the seventh lunar month.
2. The Western Valentine's Day is a story about St. Valentine, and the Chinese Valentine's Day is a story about Niulang and Zhinü.
3. People celebrate the Western Valentine's Day by sharing gifts with the people they love, but the Chinese culture uses the holiday to pray for good skills, blessings, and love.

Concluding Device: Although the West and China celebrate Valentine's Day in different ways, the longing for love is a strong aspect that both cultures share.

[7:25]

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