

# Sailor's Valentine

A sailor's valentine is an art form made from arranging small seashells in a symmetrical pattern. They were a popular souvenir purchased by sailors for their sweethearts left on shore and usually featured a symbol of love or a romantic message close to its center. While the name suggests that the sailors crafted these designs themselves, most were created and purchased on the island of Barbados.



Photo of a sailor's valentine in the collection of the Mystic Seaport Museum. © Mystic Seaport Museum, 1952.2107.

## Materials:

Sailor's valentine coloring sheet

Scissors

Crayons or colored pencils

## Directions:

1. Print and cut out the valentine template
2. Fold the template in half
3. Color in the seashell design
4. Write a message on the inside of the card, such as: forget me not, think of me, ever thine, and forever yours.

