New Year Traditions Around the World

Bosnia: People get together with family and they count down to the New Year. At midnight they go outside and have fireworks. - Aron

Poland: In Poland they have a legend that Pope Sylvester I imprisoned a dragon called Leviathan who escaped on the 1st day of the year 1000. The dragon was mean to the people and caused a lot of trouble for the Pope, but on January 1st it didn’t return and that’s why New Year’s Eve in Poland is St. Sylvester’s Eve. - Matthew

Iceland: Many people listen to the mass at Reykjavik’s cathedral on the radio on New Year’s Eve. Happy New Year in Iceland is celebrated with fireworks, bonfires, music and food tables. - Madison

Switzerland: In Switzerland they celebrate Old Sylvester’s Day on the 13th of December. People go through the streets dressed in costumes and hats representing evil and good spirits. - Kallie

South Africa: In South Africa they ring in the New Year by ringing church bells and shooting guns. People dress in costumes and dance to drums. - Mohamed

Greece: January 1st in Greece is called St. Basil Day. St. Basil was kind to children and poor people. At night presents are put into children’s shoes. They also eat cake with a coin hidden in it. Whoever finds the coin will have luck. - Chloe

Brazil: In Brazil a lentil to people is the representative of wealth, so they serve something with lentils on New Year’s Eve (like lentil soup or lentils and rice). - Payton

France: For the New Year celebration in France they throw parties for the entire family. People start to send fake gifts on April 1st until the French New Year (Jour des E’trennes). - Brielle

Netherlands: To celebrate the New Year in the Netherlands they eat deep fried dough balls (oliebollen), watch fireworks and dive into the North Sea, lakes or canals. - Ethan

India: In India the New Year festival is called Diwali and it is a festival with lights. They wash, groom and decorate their animals for the festival. - Sandra

Turkey: In Turkey many people start to celebrate New Year’s Eve with a large family dinner. Usually a roasted turkey is served. - Evren

Egypt: On New Year’s Day the Egyptians give their children candies wrapped in colorful paper. The girls are given candies shaped like ladies in dresses and the boys get ones shaped as men on horses. - Haidyn

England: One tradition in England is to gather in Trafalgar Square or Piccadilly Circus and wait and listen for the chimes of Big Ben to announce the arrival of the New Year. People link arms and sing the song Auld Lang Syne. - Tirza

United States: In the United States one of the most famous traditions is for people to want to see the ball dropping in New York City in Times Square. - Sokiri

China: Between January 21 and February 20 some Chinese people believe evil spirits dislike loud noises so they cover their houses with plastic fireworks to chase evil away. - Cody

Australia: New Years is celebrated by having picnics and going camping on the beach. - Morgan

Germany: People in Germany would drop molten lead into cold water and try to see what would happen in the New Year by the shape it makes. For example a heart or ring shape meant a wedding. - Alexa

Lao: The New Year celebration in Lao is April 13th, 14th, and 15th. They release captive animals. The festival is at the end of the dry season and the start of the rains. - Gavin

Korea: In Korea, some people place straw scoopers or rakes on the walls of the house to protect their families from evil spirits. A bowl of rice cake soup is served to add an extra year to a person’s life. - Alexis

Whales: Children from Whales get up early and go from house to house singing songs. People give them coins, apples and sweets. - Dooly

Japan: The Japanese New Year (Oshogatsu) starts on January 1st and lasts for 2 weeks. To kick off Oshogatsu Japanese people will start to laugh. They believe this will bring happiness and good luck. - Avery

Hungary: On New Year’s Eve the Hungarian people make straw men called “Jack Straw” which symbolizes the evils of the past year. The straw men are paraded all around town during the day, and burned at night. - Michaela

Our New Year Resolutions

My New Year resolution is to finish all the books piling up in my closet. (There are at least 20.) - Kallie

In the New Year, I will make my dirt bike racing skills better. - Morgan

My New Year resolution is to play fair in all games. - Gavin

In the New Year, I would like to volunteer more to make the world a better place. - Katelyn

My goal this year is to eat more vegetables. - Cody

Starting New Year’s Day, I will not yell at my brothers. I will be nice to everyone and everything and spend lots of time with my family. - Tirza

This New Year, I want to go outside, get fresh air, and exercise more. - Haidyn

My goal this year is to have fun. - Sandra

My New Year’s resolution is to see my family more. - Ethan

My goal is to remember to wake up in the morning for school. - Sokiri

Starting New Year’s Day, I will volunteer with animals more often. - Brielle

I want to learn how to make and bake pies. - Payton

My goal for the New Year is to just stay the same way I am. - Chloe

My goal this year is to try and do more chores and earn an allowance. - Madison

My hope for the New Year is to make my room neater. - Mohamed

My New Year’s resolution is to stop drinking a lot of pop. - Matthew

My hope for the New Year is to spend more time with my dad. - Aron

My goal this year is to help my mom with my siblings when she is doing homework or class on the computer. - Alexis

My New Year resolution is to be nice and not get in trouble. Thank you for reading my New Year resolution. - Dooly

My goal this year is to get better at Math. - Michaela

This New Year, I want to read more and more and discover new things in wild life. - Avery

I resolve to actually finish at least one of the stories I write. - Juliet

My New Year resolution is to practice more soccer. - Evren

Our next featured teacher will be: Connie Pederson, Grade 5, Central Elementary, Wahpeton, ND