

Name:

## New Year Traditions Around the World

The New Year is a special time when people say goodbye to the old year and welcome a new one. Around the world, countries celebrate the New Year in different and exciting ways, based on their culture, history, and traditions. Even though the celebrations look different, the meaning is the same everywhere—hope, happiness, and new beginnings.

In the **United States**, New Year's Eve is celebrated on December 31st. Many people gather with family and friends to count down the final seconds before midnight. One of the most famous celebrations takes place in New York City, where a giant ball drops in Times Square.

Fireworks light up the sky, people cheer, hug, and wish each other a "Happy New Year." Many families make New Year's resolutions, promising to improve themselves in the year ahead.

In **Japan**, New Year is a calm and meaningful holiday. Families clean their homes to remove bad luck from the past year. At midnight, Buddhist temples ring bells 108 times, which represents clearing human worries and mistakes.

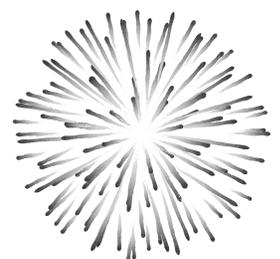
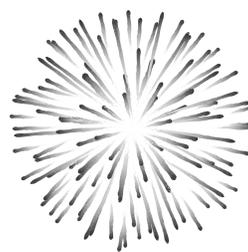
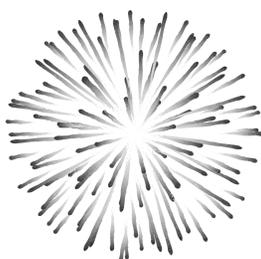
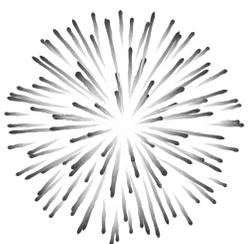
People visit temples and shrines, eat special foods called osechi, and send New Year cards to friends and relatives. The celebration focuses on peace, respect, and fresh beginnings.

In **Spain**, people eat twelve grapes at midnight—one grape for each chime of the clock. Each grape represents good luck for one month of the new year.

Families and friends gather in city squares or at home, laughing and cheering as they try to eat all the grapes on time. It is a fun and joyful tradition filled with hope and excitement.

In **Brazil**, many people celebrate New Year at the beach. They wear white clothes to bring peace and good luck. At midnight, people jump over seven waves and make a wish with each jump.

Flowers are often placed in the ocean to honor the sea goddess, and fireworks light up the sky. The celebration is colorful, lively, and full of energy.



## New Year Traditions Around the World

**China** celebrates the New Year according to the lunar calendar, usually in January or February. The celebrations last for 15 days and include dragon dances, red decorations, and family gatherings.

Red is an important color because it represents luck and happiness. Children often receive red envelopes with money. The Lunar New Year is a time for family, respect, and good fortune.

**India** celebrates New Year in different ways depending on the region. Some areas celebrate in January, while others follow the lunar calendar.

Festivals include colorful decorations, prayers, music, and special meals. People wear new clothes and visit temples. Each celebration reflects local culture, but all share the same message—hope and renewal.

In **France**, New Year's Eve is often celebrated with a special dinner called Le Réveillon. Families enjoy delicious food, music, and time together.

At midnight, people exchange greetings and sometimes kisses under mistletoe. The celebration is warm, joyful, and focused on togetherness.

Although New Year traditions differ from country to country, they all share something important. People everywhere celebrate with hope, kindness, and excitement for the future.

Whether it is fireworks, quiet prayers, special foods, or family gatherings, the New Year reminds us that every ending is also a new beginning.

### **Fill in the Blanks:**

In the United States, people celebrate New Year's Eve on \_\_\_\_\_.

In Japan, temple bells are rung \_\_\_\_\_ times to welcome the New Year.

People in Spain eat \_\_\_\_\_ grapes at midnight for good luck.

In Brazil, many people wear \_\_\_\_\_ clothes to bring peace and good fortune.

China celebrates New Year according to the \_\_\_\_\_ calendar.



**Choose the best answer.**

**1. What famous event happens in New York City on New Year's Eve?**

- A. Dragon dance
- B. Temple bell ringing
- C. Ball drop in Times Square
- D. Jumping ocean waves

**2. Why do Japanese families clean their homes before the New Year?**

- A. To decorate the house
- B. To remove bad luck from the past year
- C. To prepare for guests
- D. To make more space

**3. What do the twelve grapes in Spain represent?**

- A. Twelve holidays
- B. Twelve wishes
- C. Twelve months of the year
- D. Twelve family members

**4. Which country celebrates the Lunar New Year with red decorations and dragon dances?**

- A. France
- B. India
- C. China
- D. Brazil

**5. What is the main message shared by New Year celebrations around the world?**

- A. Eating special food
- B. Wearing new clothes
- C. Hope, happiness, and new beginnings
- D. Staying awake late

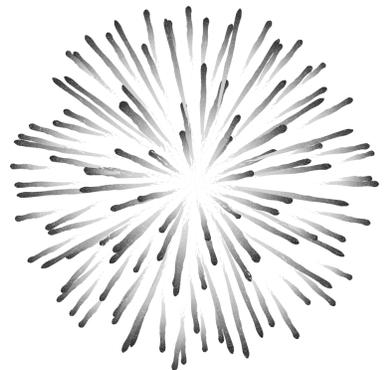
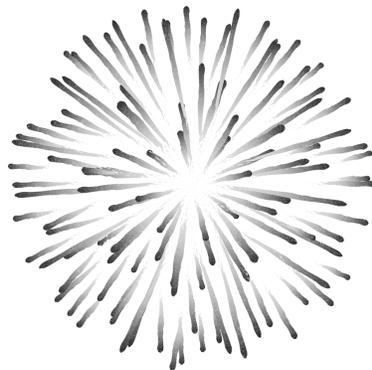
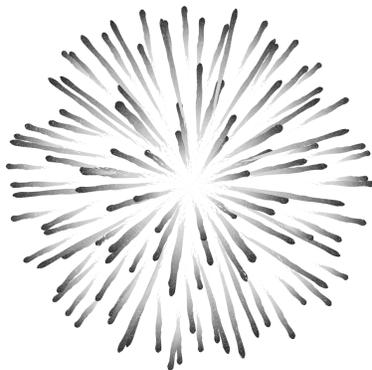
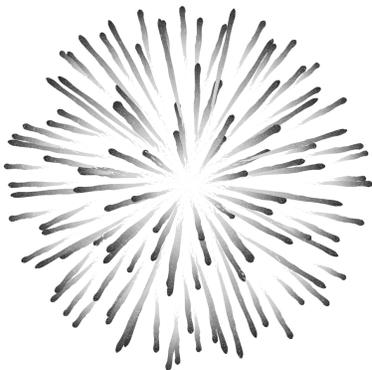
**1-How do New Year celebrations in the United States and Japan differ in style and meaning?**

**2-Why do you think food plays an important role in New Year celebrations in many countries?**

**3-Choose one country from the passage and explain how its New Year tradition shows hope for the future.**

**4-What similarities do you notice among New Year celebrations around the world, even though traditions are different?**

**5-if you could create a New Year tradition for your country or family, what would it be and why?**



Name :



## *The Midnight Wish Clock*

In the small town of Brightville, there stood an old clock tower in the town square. Most people passed it every day without stopping, but everyone knew one thing about the clock—it always chimed perfectly at midnight on New Year’s Eve. Ten-year-old Leo loved that clock more than anything. Every year, he stood in the cold with his family, counting down the final seconds until the bells rang and the New Year began.

Earlier that day, Leo’s grandmother had shared a secret with him. With a gentle smile and a twinkle in her eye, she told him that the old clock could grant one true wish each year, but only to someone who wished from the heart. Leo’s mind filled with excitement and curiosity. A real wish sounded magical, and he spent the rest of the day thinking about what he might ask for.

As evening fell and the town square filled with people, Leo’s thoughts began to change. He looked around and noticed things he had never paid attention to before. Mrs. Carter stood nearby, wrapped in a thin coat and shivering. His friend Sam looked lonely, missing the family members who had moved away. Some houses were dark, and a few shops stood closed, reminding Leo that not everyone felt happy or hopeful as the year ended.

The countdown began, and the air buzzed with excitement. Snowflakes drifted softly as the crowd shouted together. When the final seconds arrived and the clock started to chime, Leo closed his eyes. Instead of wishing for toys or games, he whispered a different kind of wish. He asked that everyone in Brightville start the New Year feeling cared for, hopeful, and never alone.

When the last bell rang, nothing seemed to happen at first. Leo felt a moment of doubt, wondering if the wish had worked at all. Then, slowly, he noticed small changes around him. A neighbor invited Mrs. Carter into a warm café. Sam was surrounded by friends, laughing and smiling. Lights flickered on in quiet houses, and people began sharing warm drinks, kind words, and gentle hugs.



## The Midnight Wish Clock

Leo realized that the clock hadn't magically changed the town. Instead, it had inspired people to care for one another. Kindness was spreading, and the square felt brighter than ever before. As Leo walked home, his grandmother squeezed his hand and told him he had made the right choice.

His heart felt warm and full as the New Year began.

That night, Leo learned an important lesson. The greatest wishes are not about what we receive, but about how much kindness we share. And every time the clock tower chimed in the years to come, it reminded the people of Brightville that the best way to welcome a new year is with love and compassion.

### Fill in the Blanks:

The old clock tower stood in the town square of \_\_\_\_\_.

Leo learned about the clock's secret from his \_\_\_\_\_.

The clock chimed exactly at \_\_\_\_\_ on New Year's Eve.

Leo wished that everyone in the town would feel \_\_\_\_\_ and hopeful.

After the wish, people in the town began to show more \_\_\_\_\_ to one another.

### Answer the following questions:

Where is the old clock tower located?

---

Who tells Leo the secret about the clock?

---

What kind of wish does Leo make at midnight?

---

Name one change Leo notices in the town after his wish.

---

What lesson does Leo learn about the New Year?

---



## Multiple-Choice Questions :

### 1. What was special about the old clock tower?

- A. It stopped working at night
- B. It granted a true wish at midnight on New Year's Eve
- C. It rang every hour
- D. It was the tallest building in town

### 2. What did Leo first think about wishing for?

- A. New clothes
- B. Toys and games
- C. A trip around the world
- D. A pet

### 3. What made Leo change his wish?

- A. His grandmother's advice
- B. The cold weather
- C. Seeing people who seemed lonely or in need
- D. The loud crowd

### 4. What happened after Leo made his wish?

- A. Fireworks filled the sky
- B. The clock stopped working
- C. People began helping and caring for each other
- D. Everyone went home

### 5. What lesson does the story teach?

- A. Wishes always come true
- B. New Year is about getting gifts
- C. Kindness and caring for others matter most
- D. Clocks are magical

Name :

# The Snowy Resolution



On the last day of the year, the town of Maplewood was covered in soft white snow. Rooftops sparkled, trees looked like they were dusted with sugar, and the air felt quiet and peaceful. Ten-year-old Emma stood by her window, watching snowflakes drift gently to the ground.

Emma liked New Year's Eve, but this year felt different. She had made a mistake at school earlier in the year—she had stopped trying when things became hard. Whenever something felt difficult, Emma gave up quickly. Deep down, she wished she could change that about herself.

That evening, Emma's family gathered in the living room with warm blankets and hot chocolate. Her parents talked about New Year's resolutions—small promises people make to improve themselves in the coming year.

"Do you have a resolution, Emma?" her mom asked kindly.

Emma thought for a moment. Then she said softly, "I want to try... even when things are hard."

Her parents smiled.

Outside, the snow continued to fall, covering the ground smoothly, as if the world itself was starting fresh.

Later that night, Emma bundled up and stepped outside. The town was quiet, and the streetlights glowed softly against the snow. Emma took a deep breath and whispered her resolution again, hoping the New Year would hear her.

At midnight, fireworks lit up the sky in bright colors. Emma felt a warm feeling in her heart. She didn't feel magically different—but she felt hopeful.

The next week, school started again. When Emma faced a tricky math problem, she almost gave up. Her pencil hovered in the air. Then she remembered her snowy promise.

"I'll try one more time," she told herself.

She worked slowly, made a mistake, erased it, and tried again. When she finally solved the problem, a small smile spread across her face.

Day by day, Emma kept her resolution. She raised her hand even when she wasn't sure of the answer. She practiced reading even when the words were hard. She helped others instead of stepping back.

The snow outside slowly melted as winter turned into spring. And just like the changing seasons, Emma changed too—not all at once, but one small effort at a time.

By the end of the year, Emma looked back proudly. She hadn't been perfect, but she had tried. And she was happy about it.

Name :

## The Snowy Resolution

The town of \_\_\_\_\_ was covered in soft white snow on the last day of the year. Emma wanted to change one thing about herself: she wanted to keep trying even when things were \_\_\_\_\_.

On New Year's Eve, Emma whispered her resolution outside, hoping the \_\_\_\_\_ would hear her.

Emma worked hard on her math problem, erased her mistakes, and tried \_\_\_\_\_. By the end of the year, Emma realized that the New Year gives people a chance to \_\_\_\_\_.

What did Emma decide her New Year's resolution would be?

---

---

How did Emma feel when the fireworks lit up the sky at midnight?

---

---

Give an example of how Emma tried to keep her resolution at school.

---

---

Why did Emma's parents encourage her to make a resolution?

---

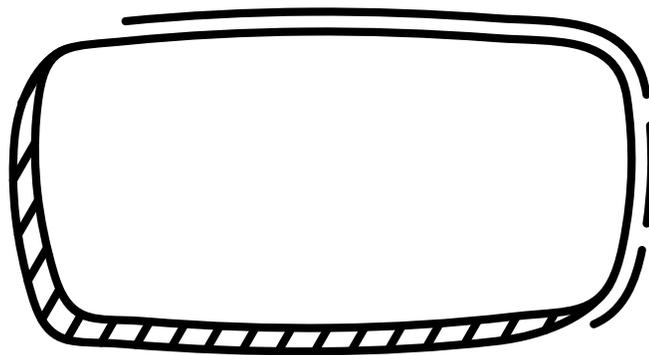
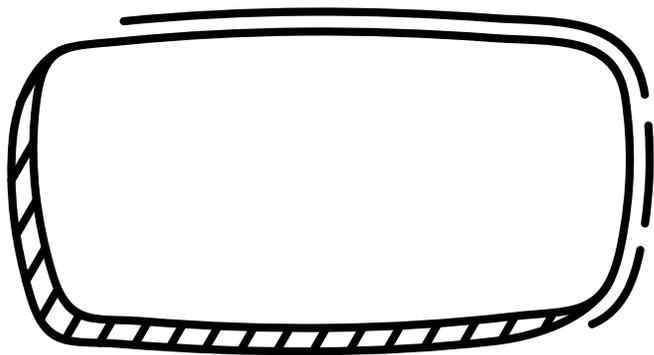
---

What important lesson did Emma learn by the end of the year?

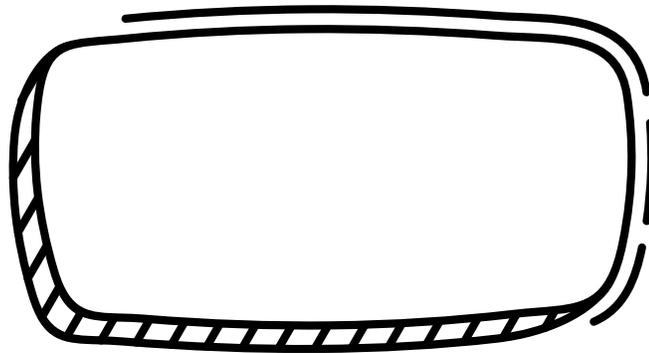
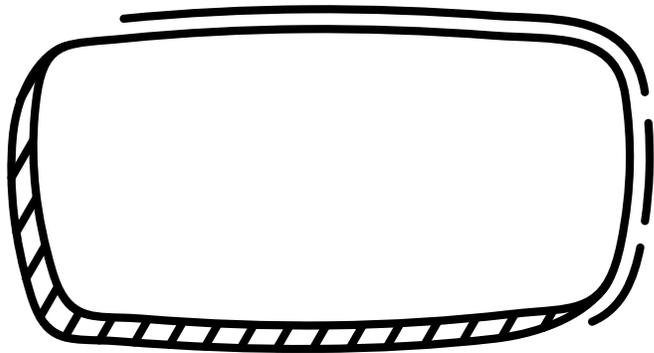
---

---

Write down any main points of the story in the following boxes.



The Snowy Resolution



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The New Year Lantern: A Heartwarming Story About Wishes and Kindness

The town of Willowbrook was preparing for its annual New Year celebration. Every year, the townspeople gathered near the river to release lanterns into the sky. Each lantern carried a hope or wish for the coming year. Ten-year-old Sophie could hardly wait. She loved the way the lanterns glowed like tiny stars floating away into the night.

Sophie's family had a tradition: each person writes a wish on their lantern before it is lit. That year, Sophie wrote carefully on her lantern: "I hope to be brave and help others this year." She folded the paper and placed it inside the lantern, smiling as she imagined it soaring high above the river.

As the evening grew darker, families filled the riverbank. Children laughed, couples held hands, and everyone looked up at the sky filled with glowing lanterns. Sophie held her lantern tightly, imagining all her wishes drifting toward the stars.

When it was time to release the lanterns, Sophie's lantern got caught in a strong gust of wind. Before she could grab it, the lantern floated downriver, disappearing from sight. Sophie's heart sank. She had worked so hard on her wish, and now it seemed lost forever.

Her parents tried to comfort her. "Don't worry, Sophie," her mother said. "The river has a way of bringing things back when it's meant to be." But Sophie wasn't sure she believed it. She watched as other children released their lanterns, each glowing warmly in the night sky.

The next morning, Sophie woke to a soft tapping at her window. When she opened it, she saw something amazing: her lantern had returned, gently floating near the window ledge. Inside, the paper was slightly damp, but the wish was still there. Sophie carefully removed it and smiled, realizing that sometimes, wishes find their way back when you need them most.

From that day on, Sophie noticed small ways her wish was coming true. She found courage to help a classmate struggling with a project, she spoke up to include someone who felt left out, and she felt a warm happiness in knowing she was making a difference. By the time the next New Year arrived, Sophie understood that the magic wasn't only in the lanterns or the river—it was in the kindness and bravery she carried in her own heart.

And every year, as Willowbrook lit its lanterns and sent them floating toward the stars, Sophie whispered a small, quiet thank-you for the lessons she had learned, knowing that the most meaningful wishes are the ones that make the world brighter, one small act at a time.

Fill in the Blanks:

The town of \_\_\_\_\_ prepared for its annual New Year celebration by releasing lanterns. Sophie's wish for the New Year was to be \_\_\_\_\_ and help others. Sophie's lantern got caught in the wind and floated \_\_\_\_\_. The next morning, Sophie found her lantern \_\_\_\_\_ near her window. Sophie learned that the most meaningful wishes are made through \_\_\_\_\_ and bravery.

Answer the following questions:

What tradition does Sophie's town have for New Year's Eve?

---

---

What did Sophie write on her lantern?

---

---

How did Sophie feel when her lantern floated away?

---

---

How did Sophie's wish start coming true after she found her lantern?

---

---

What lesson does Sophie learn by the end of the story?

---

---

**Circle the true answer:**

Sophie's town releases lanterns into the sky every New Year's Eve. (True/False)

Sophie's wish was for a new toy to make her happy. (True/False)

Sophie's lantern floated away in the wind and disappeared forever. (True/False)

Sophie's wish began to come true when she helped others and showed bravery. (True/False)

The story teaches that the most meaningful wishes come from kindness and courage.  
(True/False)

**Circle the best answer:**

**1. What special tradition does Sophie's town have for New Year's Eve?**

- A. Decorating Christmas trees
- B. Releasing lanterns into the sky
- C. Lighting fireworks at the town square
- D. Singing carols

**2. What was Sophie's wish for the New Year?**

- A. To get a new bicycle
- B. To be brave and help others
- C. To win a game
- D. To get lots of toys

**3. What happened to Sophie's lantern on New Year's Eve?**

- A. It fell into the river immediately
- B. It floated away in the wind
- C. It caught fire
- D. It stayed perfectly still

**4. How did Sophie's wish start coming true?**

- A. People returned her lantern with gifts
- B. She began helping others and showing bravery
- C. She received magical powers
- D. The town built a new playground

**5. What is the main lesson of the story?**

- A. Wishes always come true instantly
- B. The most meaningful wishes come from kindness and courage
- C. New Year is only about celebrating with fireworks
- D. Only magical lanterns can grant wishes