

New Year Traditions Around the World

How do you ring in the new year? People in many countries shoot fireworks into the sky at midnight. This is common for people in Australia and the United States. They celebrate the passing of another year. Other people eat with friends and neighbors as a way to hope for good luck. Whether you throw a party with friends and family or participate in other unique traditions, honoring the new year can be a great way to think about the past and hope for a bright future.



Out with the Old, in with the New

In many countries, it is important to make space for new and good things to come. People in different regions have different ways of doing so. In many cultures, people get rid of old things to make room for new. Burning Christmas trees to show the end of the Christmas season is one common way of doing this. People in some countries throw out their old or used household goods and items. Many people stay up until midnight on New Year's Eve. This way they can be awake to celebrate the old year and begin the new year.



Cleansing Waters

Other countries celebrate the new year by using water as an important symbol. Some people splash water on each other to bring good luck. Others throw water out of their windows to send away evil spirits.

Celebrating with Parties and Food

In many cultures, people enjoy good food with their loved ones. Festive meals and desserts are a way to celebrate the past and the future. During New Year's Eve parties, people often listen or watch a countdown to the new year.



Bizarre Traditions

What may seem strange to you, might be

New Year Traditions Around the World

tradition to someone else! In Canada, some people celebrate the new year by jumping into the icy waters of the English Bay. They brave the icy, cold waters to bring an end to the year that has passed. These traditions are all done in good fun. The important thing about celebrating the new year is thinking about the previous year and setting goals for the future.



Questions

1. What is the main idea of the text?
- To explain ways to clean
 - To describe different New Year traditions
 - To describe various food
 - To describe various cultures

2. What is an example of a New Year's tradition mentioned in the text?
- Praying
 - Singing
 - Playing
 - Cleaning

3. Why do people in some countries burn their Christmas trees?
- To signify the end of Christmas
 - To keep warm
 - To give off bright light
 - To clear out space

4. Why do people in some countries splash water on each other?
- To clean each other
 - To bring each other good luck
 - To surprise each other
 - To play games

5. What are some things you do with your family to celebrate the new year?

6. Write down one goal you have for the coming year and explain why you have chosen it.

Answers

1. What is the main idea of the text?

- To explain ways to clean
- To describe different New Year traditions**
- To describe various food
- To describe various cultures

2. What is an example of a New Year's tradition mentioned in the text?

- Praying
- Singing
- Playing
- Cleaning**

3. Why do people in some countries burn their Christmas trees?

- To signify the end of Christmas**
- To keep warm
- To give off bright light
- To clear out space

4. Why do people in some countries splash water on each other?

- To clean each other
- To bring each other good luck**
- To surprise each other
- To play games

5. What are some things you do with your family to celebrate the new year?

Answers will vary.

6. Write down one goal you have for the coming year and explain why you have chosen it.

Answers will vary.