

New Year

The New Year begins at midnight when 31st December ends and 1st January begins. It is a time when people say goodbye to the past year and welcome in the new year.

The Gregorian Calendar

Pope Gregory XIII changed the dates of the calendar so that Easter could be celebrated at the time it used to be celebrated years before.

Although New Year begins on 1st January in the UK, other countries and religions celebrate the start of the New Year on different days of the year.

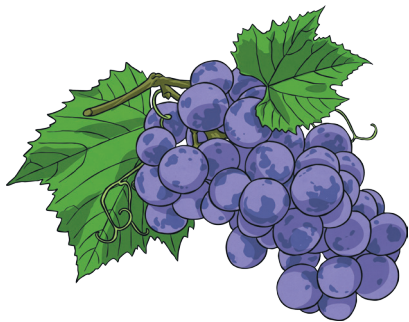
The first country to welcome in the new year is Kiribati, which is in the Pacific Ocean.



New Year in Mexico

Mexicans celebrate the New Year by eating grapes at the chimes of midnight, and making a wish with each chime. Homes are decorated red, yellow, green and white.

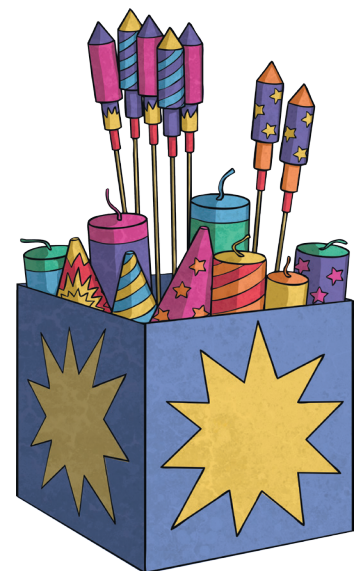
Mexican sweetbread is baked with a charm or a coin inside. The person who gets the coin or charm is said to be blessed with good luck.



Another tradition is to write down all the bad or unhappy things that happened to you during the year, and then throw the list into the fire. This shows that you are getting rid of all negative things that happened.

New Year in Europe

In Europe, most people celebrate New Year with friends and family, throwing parties or going to pubs and bars. Often fireworks, games and a special meal are part of the celebrations too.



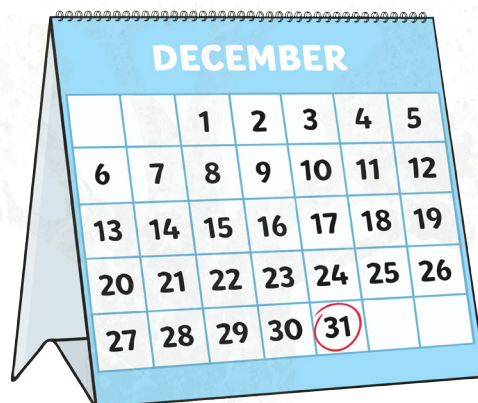
In Brazil, New Year marks the beginning of the summer holidays. There are live concerts, a brilliant fireworks display and millions of people on one of Rio de Janeiro's beaches.

New Year in Scotland

In Scotland, New Year is called Hogmanay. People visit one another's houses and take gifts, usually a coin, bread, salt, coal and whisky. These represent wealth, food, flavour, warmth and good cheer.

A Time to Reflect

New Year is a time to look back on the past year and look forward to the new one. It is a time when people make New Year Resolutions. These are like promises. Adults might decide to change their jobs or move house, and children might plan to do their homework, help more around the house or join a club.



New Year Questions

1. What are people saying goodbye to at the start of the New Year?

2. Who changed the calendar dates so that Easter could be celebrated at a certain time?

3. Which country welcomes in the New Year first?

4. Why is a coin or charm baked inside Mexican sweetbread?

5. In which country does the New Year mark the beginning of the summer holiday?

6. In which country is New Year called Hogmanay?

7. Name three gifts that people who celebrate Hogmanay might take to their friend's house.

8. What is New Year often a time to do?

9. Give an example of a New Year Resolution.

New Year **Answers**

1. What are people saying goodbye to at the start of the New Year?

At the start of New Year, people are saying goodbye to the past year.

2. Who changed the calendar dates so that Easter could be celebrated at a certain time?

Pope Gregory XIII changed the calendar so that Easter could be celebrated at a certain time.

3. Which country welcomes in the New Year first?

Kiribati welcomes in the New Year first.

4. Why is a coin or charm baked inside Mexican sweetbread?

A coin or charm is baked in Mexican sweetbread to bring good luck to the person who gets it.

5. In which country does the New Year mark the beginning of the summer holiday?

In Brazil, the New Year marks the beginning of the summer holiday.

6. In which country is New Year called Hogmanay?

In Scotland, New Year is called Hogmanay.

7. Name three gifts that people who celebrate Hogmanay might take to their friend's house.

Any three of the following: coin, bread, salt, coal or whisky.

8. What is New Year often a time to do?

New Year is often a time to reflect on the last year/ look forward to the new year/ make changes in your life.

9. Give an example of a New Year Resolution.

An example of a New Year Resolution would be:

To change jobs/ move house/ do your homework/ help around the house more/ join a club.

New Year

The New Year begins at midnight when 31st December ends and 1st January begins. It is often seen as an important time where people say goodbye to the past year and welcome in the new year.

But how did this changing of the year come about and how is it celebrated?

The Gregorian Calendar

The calendar was changed in October 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII, which is why it is called the Gregorian Calendar. The Pope changed the dates of the calendar so that Easter could be celebrated at the time of year it used to be celebrated by the early Church years before.

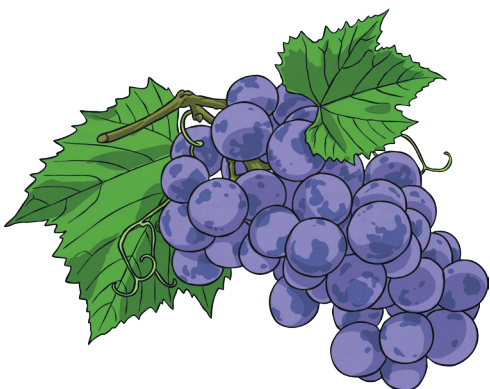
1st January is also known as the day to commemorate the saints. Other countries and religions celebrate the start of the New Year on different days of the year.

New Year's Eve is also known as Old Year's Day or Saint Sylvester's Day.

New Year in Mexico

Mexicans celebrate the New Year by eating a grape at the chimes of midnight, whilst making a wish with each chime. Homes are decorated red, yellow, green and white representing the hopes they have for the coming year.

Mexican sweetbread is baked with a charm or a coin inside. The person who gets the coin or charm is said to be blessed with good luck.



Another tradition is to write down all the bad or unhappy things that happened to you during the year, and then throw the list into the fire. This symbolises getting rid of all negative energy.

Because of the time differences around the world, the first country to welcome in the new year is Kiribati. It is in the Line Islands in the Pacific Ocean.



In Brazil, New Year marks the beginning of the summer holidays. There are live concerts, a spectacular fireworks display and millions of revellers on Rio de Janeiro's beach, Copacabana.

New Year in Europe

In Europe, most people celebrate New Year with friends and family, throwing parties or going to pubs and bars. Often fireworks, games and a special meal are part of the celebrations too.

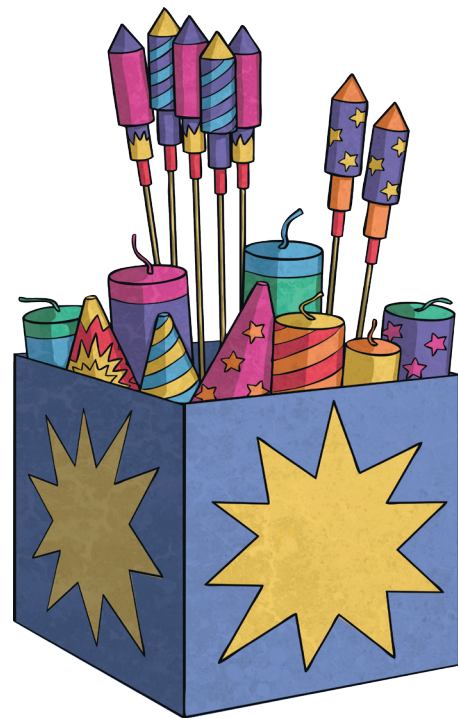
New Year in Scotland

In Scotland, New Year is called Hogmanay. People visit one another's houses and take some unusual gifts, traditionally a coin, bread, salt, coal and whisky. These represent wealth, food, flavour, warmth and good cheer.

In the Scottish capital, Edinburgh, a huge celebration takes place along Princes Street. The cannon is fired at Edinburgh Castle at midnight, then there is a large fireworks display.

A Time to Reflect

New Year is a time to look back on the past year and look forward to the new one. It is a time when people make New Year Resolutions. These give people the chance to try to make changes in their lives. Adults might decide to change their jobs or move house, and children might plan to do their homework, help more around the house or join a club.



New Year Questions

1. Why is the New Year often seen as an important time?

2. Why is the calendar known as the Gregorian Calendar?

3. Why is Kiribati the first country to welcome the New Year?

4. Identify one other name by which New Year's Eve is known.

5. Explain one of the traditions that Mexicans might carry out at New Year, and give the reason.

6. What are the "revellers" on beaches in Brazil?

7. What is "Hogmanay"?

8. Why do people celebrating Hogmanay, take unusual gifts to friend's houses?

9. Describe what happens in Edinburgh?

10. Why do people make New Year Resolutions?

New Year Answers

1. Why is the New Year often seen as an important time?

New Year is often seen as an important time because it is a time for people to say goodbye to the past year and welcome in the New Year.

2. Why is the calendar known as the Gregorian Calendar?

The calendar is known as the Gregorian calendar because it was changed by the Pope Gregory XIII.

3. Why is Kiribati the first country to welcome the New Year?

Kiribati is the first country to welcome the New Year because of the time differences around the world.

4. Identify one other name by which New Year's Eve is known.

New Year's Eve is also known as Old Year's Day/ Saint Sylvester's Day.

5. Explain one of the traditions that Mexicans might carry out at New Year, and give the reason.

Any of the following: eating grapes at midnight and making wishes – to bring good luck in the next year/ decorating their homes to represent the hopes they have for the next year/ bake bread with a charm or coin inside to bless the recipient with luck/ write a list of the bad and unhappy things that happened in the past year and burn the list symbolising getting rid of the negative energy.

6. What are the “revellers” on beaches in Brazil?

The “revellers” on the beaches in Brazil are the people or crowds who are celebrating the start of the new year.

7. What is “Hogmanay”?

“Hogmanay” is the New Year in Scotland.

8. Why do people celebrating Hogmanay, take unusual gifts to friend's houses?

People celebrating Hogmanay take unusual gifts to friend's houses, to represent wealth, food, flavour, warmth and good cheer in the coming year.

9. Describe what happens in Edinburgh?

In Edinburgh there is a huge celebration along Princes Street. The cannon is fired at Edinburgh Castle at midnight, then there is a large fireworks display.

10. Why do people make New Year Resolutions?

People make New Year Resolutions to make changes in their lives.

New Year

The New Year begins at midnight when 31st December ends and 1st January begins. It is often seen as a momentous occasion where people say goodbye to the past year and welcome in the new year.

But how did this changing of the year come about and how is it celebrated?

The Gregorian Calendar

The calendar was changed in October 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII, hence the name. Before this calendar was introduced, the Julian Calendar was used. The Pope made these changes so that Easter could be celebrated at the time of year it used to be celebrated by the early Church years before.

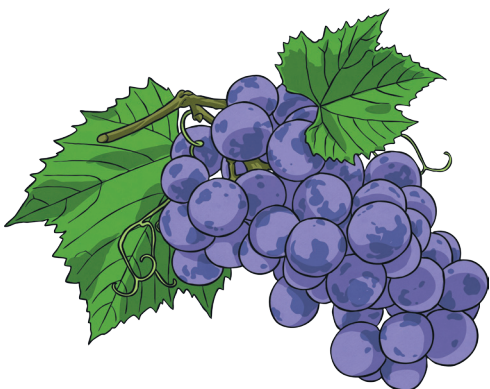
1st January is recognised as the day to commemorate the saints. Other countries and religions celebrate the start of the New Year on different days of the year.

New Year's Eve is also known as Old Year's Day or Saint Sylvester's Day.

New Year in Mexico

Mexicans celebrate the New Year by eating a grape with each of the 12 chimes of midnight, whilst making a wish with each chime. Their homes are decorated red, yellow, green and white to symbolise hopes for the coming year.

Mexican sweetbread is baked with a charm or a coin inside. The recipient of the coin or charm is said to be blessed with good luck.



Another tradition is to write down all the bad or unhappy things that happened to you during the year, and then throw the list into the fire. This symbolises the removal of all negative energy.

Due to the time differences around the world, the first country to welcome in the New Year is Kiribati, which is located in the Line Islands in the Pacific Ocean.



New Year in the United States

In the USA, it has become a tradition to watch the famous New Year Ball Drop in Times Square, New York. This tradition has been held since 1907 and is now replicated in other countries.



Central Park, also in New York, hosts a Midnight Run, which ends with a huge firework display.

New Year in Europe

In Europe, most people celebrate New Year with friends and family, throwing parties or going to pubs and bars. Often fireworks, games and a special meal are part of the celebrations too.

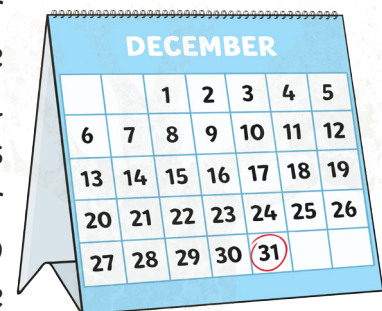
New Year in Scotland

In Scotland, New Year is called Hogmanay. People visit one another's houses and take gifts, traditionally a coin, bread, salt, coal and whisky. These represent prosperity, food, flavour, warmth and good cheer. In the Scottish capital, Edinburgh, the celebration is focused on a major street party along Princes Street. The cannon is fired at Edinburgh Castle at the stroke of midnight, followed by a large fireworks display.

In Brazil, New Year marks the beginning of the summer holidays. There are live concerts, a spectacular fireworks display and millions of revellers on Rio de Janeiro's beach, Copacabana.

A Time to Reflect

New Year is seen as a time to reflect on the past year and look forward to the new one. It is often a time when people make New Year Resolutions, which give people the chance to resolve to make changes in their lives. Adults might decide to change their jobs or move house, and children might resolve to do their homework, help more around the house or join a club.



New Year Questions

1. Why do you think New Year can be described as a “momentous occasion”?

2. Why is the current calendar called the Gregorian Calendar?

3. Explain why the calendar was changed.

4. What and where is the first country in the world to see in the New Year?

5. Mexicans decorate their homes in certain colours at New Year. Explain what hopes they might have for the coming year, when they do this.

6. What do you understand the word ‘recipient’ to mean in that sentence?

7. Explain the purpose of burning a list in the fire.

8. What US tradition is now copied in other countries?

9. Name three activities that regularly happen to celebrate the New Year in different countries.

10. Instead of the word ‘prosperity’, what other word might the author have used?

11. Explain what New Year Resolutions are and why the new year is a good time to make them.

New Year Answers

1. Why do you think New Year can be described as a “momentous occasion”?

Pupil’s own response based on: New Year is described as a “momentous occasion” because it celebrates the beginning of a new year/ is an ending for the past year/ time for a new start.

2. Why is the current calendar called the Gregorian Calendar?

The current calendar is called the Gregorian Calendar because Pope Gregory XIII changed the calendar dates.

3. Explain why the calendar was changed.

Pope Gregory XIII changed the calendar dates because he wanted the date for Easter to be the could be celebrated at the time of year it used to be celebrated by the early Church years before.

4. What and where is the first country in the world to see in the New Year?

The first country to see in the New Year is Kiribati in the Line Islands in the Pacific Ocean. Mexicans decorate their homes in certain colours at New Year. Explain what hopes they might have for the coming year, when they do this.

5. Mexicans decorate their homes in certain colours at New Year. Explain what hopes they might have for the coming year, when they do this.

Pupil’s own response based on: Mexicans might have hopes for good luck/ good health/ wealth/ happiness in the coming year.

6. What do you understand the word ‘recipient’ to mean in that sentence?

The word ‘recipient’ means the person who received the charm or the person who found the charm in their bread.

7. Explain the purpose of burning a list in the fire.

The purpose of burning the list in the fire is to get rid of all the negative energy from the previous year, ready to start the new year.

8. What US tradition is now copied in other countries?

Watching the New Year Ball Drop in Times Square, USA, has now been copied in other countries.

9. Name three activities that regularly happen to celebrate the New Year in different countries.

Any of the following three activities happen in other countries to celebrate New Year: throwing parties/ going to pubs and bars/ fireworks/ games/ special meal.

10. Instead of the word ‘prosperity’, what other word might the author have used?

Another word which the author might have used instead of ‘prosperity’ is wealth.

11. Explain what New Year Resolutions are and why the new year is a good time to make them.

New Year Resolutions are like promises that people make. New Year is a good time to make them because it is a new start/ a new beginning/ end of a year so people can move forward/ a good time to make changes.