

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.





New Year in Scotland

In Scotland, New Year's Eve 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.

Questions

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

2. Who changed the dates of the calendar?

3. Which country welcomes the New Year first? Tick **one**.

- Brazil
- Kiribati
- The United States of America
- Mexico

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

- to bring bad luck
- to ward off evil spirits
- to bring good luck
- as a decoration

5. Which country calls New Year 'Hogmanay'? Tick **one**.

- Brazil
- Scotland
- Mexico
- England

6. Which two of these may someone bring to a friend's house for Hogmanay? Tick **two**.

- sweets
- bread
- coal
- flower

7. Why do you think people choose to make New Year's Resolutions?

Answers

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

People are saying goodbye to the past year at the start of a New Year.

2. Who changed the dates of the calendar?

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3. Which country welcomes the New Year first? Tick **one**.

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- sweets
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- coal**
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7. Why do you think people choose to make New Year's Resolutions?

Pupil's own response, such as: I think people choose to make New Year's Resolutions because it helps them to give up something that may be difficult to stop and focus on making it through a year. It also shows that the person is making changes for the year ahead which will have a positive effect on their life.

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.

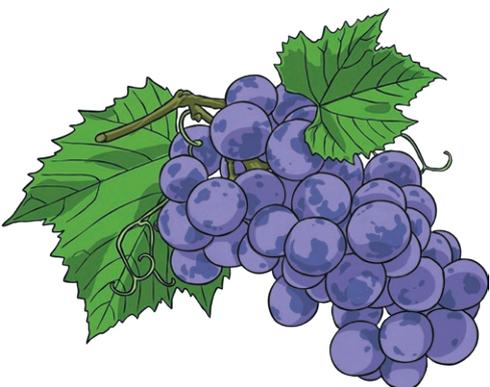
1st January is also known as the day to commemorate the saints. Other countries and religions celebrate the start of the New Year on different days of the year.

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.

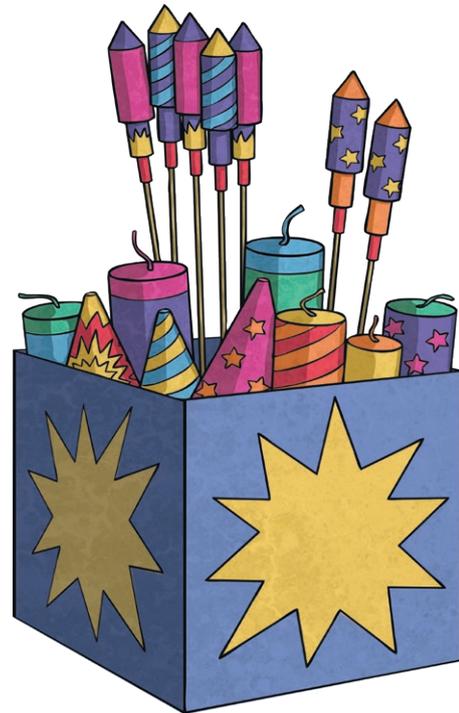
New Year in Scotland

In Scotland, New Year's Eve 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.



Questions

1. Why is the calendar known as the Gregorian calendar?

2. Which country welcomes the New Year first? Tick **one**.

- Brazil
- Kiribati
- The United States of America
- Mexico

3. Which of these are other names for New Year's Eve? Tick **two**.

- All Saint's Day
- Old Year's Day
- Hogmanay
- Copacabana

4. Explain one of the traditions that Mexicans may carry out at New Year and give the reason.

5. Fill in the missing words.

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

6. Match the country to the New Year celebration.

Brazil	•
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Scotland	•
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Mexico	•
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Houses are decorated red, yellow, green and white.
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Millions of revellers go to the beach.
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People visit other people's houses with gifts, such as a coin, bread, salt, coal and whisky.
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7. Which of these is closest in meaning to the word 'revellers'? Tick **one**.

miserable people

party-goers

to unravel

to loosen

8. Why do you think people choose to make New Year's Resolutions?

Answers

1. Why is the calendar known as the Gregorian calendar?

It is named after its inventor, Pope Gregory XIII.

2. Which country welcomes the New Year first? Tick **one**.

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- Mexico

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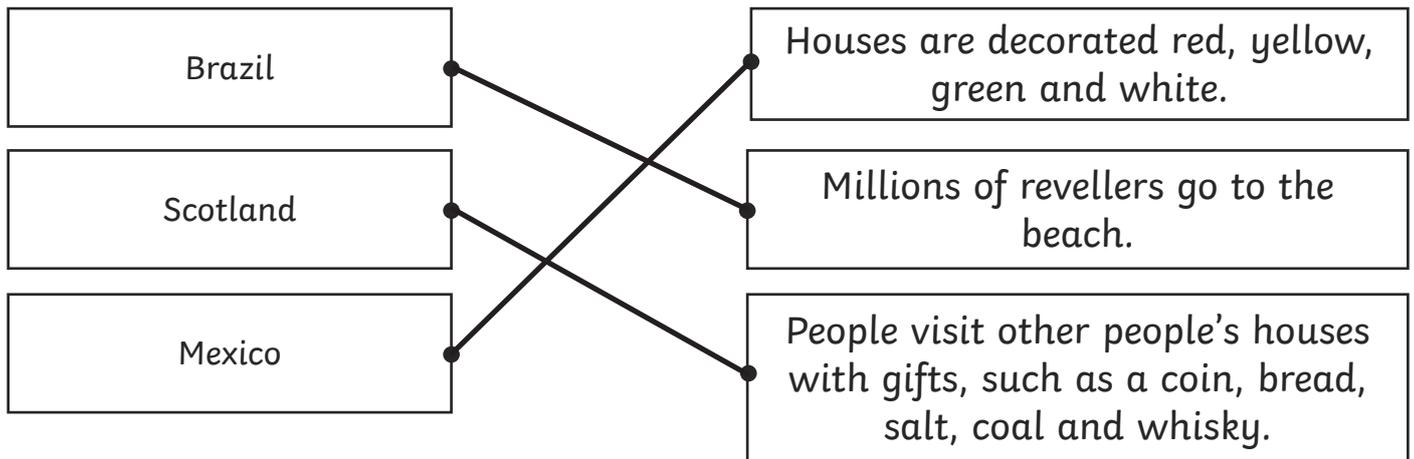
Accept any of the following:

- **eating grapes at midnight and making wishes – to bring in 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 it in a fire to symbolise getting rid of the negative energy.**

5. Fill in the missing words.

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 **firework** display.

6. Match the country to the New Year celebration.



7. Which of these is closest in meaning to the word 'revellers'? Tick **one**.

- miserable people
- party-goers**
- to unravel
- to loosen

8. Why do you think people choose to make New Year's Resolutions?

Pupil's own response, such as: I think people choose to make New Year's Resolutions because it helps them to give up something that may be difficult to stop and focus on making it through a year. It also shows that the person is making changes for the year ahead which will have a positive effect on their life.

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.

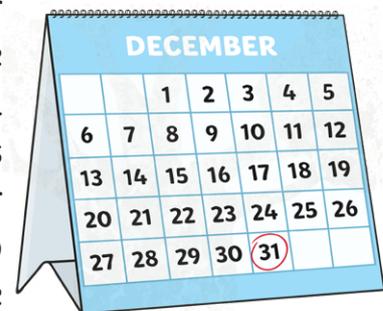
New Year in Scotland

In Scotland, New Year's Eve 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.



Questions

1. Why is the calendar known as the Gregorian calendar?

2. Which country welcomes the New Year first? Tick **one**.

- Brazil
- Kiribati
- The United States of America
- Mexico

3. Give another name that is used for New Year's Eve.

4. Explain one of the traditions that Mexicans may carry out at New Year and give the reason.

5. 'The recipient of the coin or charm is said to be blessed with good luck.'
What does the word 'recipient' mean in this sentence?

6. Match the country to the New Year celebration.

Brazil

Scotland

Mexico

Sweetbread is baked with a coin or charm inside.

Millions of revellers go to the beach.

People visit other people's houses with gifts, such as a coin, bread, salt, coal and whisky.

7. Why do you think fireworks have become popular to use in New Year's celebrations?

8. Why do you think people choose to make New Year's Resolutions?

Answers

1. Why is the calendar known as the Gregorian calendar?

It is named after its inventor, Pope Gregory XIII.

2. Which country welcomes the New Year first? Tick **one**.

- Brazil
- Kiribati**
- The United States of America
- Mexico

3. Give another name that is used for New Year's Eve.

Accept 'Old Year's Day', 'Saint Sylvester's Day' or 'Hogmanay'.

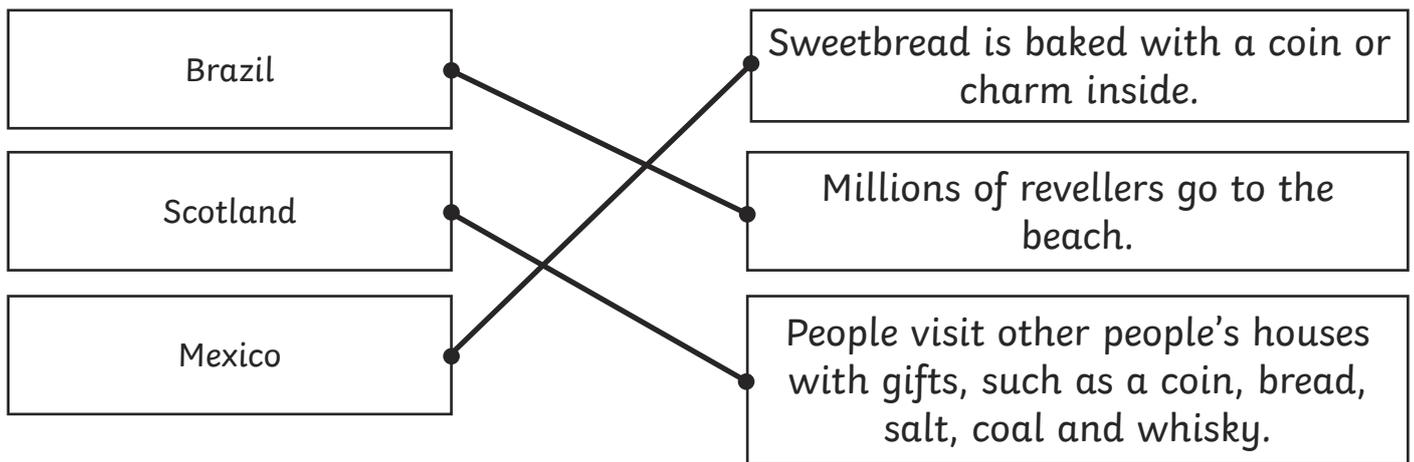
4. Explain one of the traditions that Mexicans may carry out at New Year and give the reason.

Accept answers giving reference to one of the following traditions and explaining its meaning:

- **Decorating houses in red, yellow, white and green to symbolise hopes for the new year.**
 - **Eating a grape for each of the 12 chimes of midnight and making a wish each time.**
 - **Baking sweetbread with a hidden coin or charm inside to bless the recipient with good luck.**
 - **Write down all the bad or unhappy things that have happened in the past year and burn the list, symbolising the removal of negative energy for the coming year.**
5. 'The recipient of the coin or charm is said to be blessed with good luck.'
What does the word 'recipient' mean in this sentence?

The word 'recipient' means the person receiving the coin or charm.

6. Match the country to the New Year celebration.



7. Why do you think fireworks have become popular to use in New Year's celebrations?

Pupil's own responses, such as: I think fireworks have become popular to use because they are bright and colourful and make people happy. This then starts the new year off with happy feelings and celebrates all the hopes people have at the start of a new year.

8. Why do you think people choose to make New Year's Resolutions?

Pupil's own response, such as: I think people choose to make New Year's Resolutions because it helps them to give up something that may be difficult to stop and focus on making it through a year. It also shows that the person is making changes for the year ahead which will have a positive effect on their life.