

New Year Traditions Unit

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NEW YEAR TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Unit Study Overview

UNIT OBJECTIVES

- Explore how different cultures celebrate the New Year.
- Understand the history and significance of New Year traditions across various regions.
- Compare and contrast New Year celebrations globally, recognizing similarities and unique practices.

KEY CONCEPTS

- Cultural symbolism in New Year celebrations (e.g., fireworks, foods, customs).
- The connection between the lunar calendar and New Year celebrations (e.g., Lunar New Year).
- The role of family, community, and rituals in welcoming the New Year.

TIMELINE/SCHEDULE

- [] **Week 1:** Introduction to New Year's history and traditions.
- [] **Week 2:** Cultural research and map activity.
- [] **Week 3:** Food traditions around the world, cooking or sampling traditional New Year foods.
- [] **Week 4:** Presentations and reflection on what was learned.

EXTENSIONS & ADAPTATIONS

Advanced Learners: Research the role of the lunar calendar and how it influences festivals like Lunar New Year or Diwali.

Adaptations: Visual learners can use multimedia presentations, while kinesthetic learners may enjoy more hands-on activities like cooking or creating crafts associated with New Year traditions.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- [] **World Map Activity:** Mark countries and their New Year traditions (e.g., China, Scotland, Brazil, Japan).
- [] **Cultural Research Projects:** Assign students different countries to research and present how they celebrate New Year.
- [] **New Year Foods Around the World:** Try making traditional New Year foods like 12 grapes from Spain or black-eyed peas from the Southern U.S.
- [] **Create Your Own New Year Tradition:** Encourage students to invent a unique tradition for welcoming the New Year.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



Happy New Year Everywhere! by Arlene Erlbach

Chinese New Year Wishes by Jillian Lin

Shante Keys and the New Year's Peas by Gail Piernas-Davenport



New Year's Eve (2011)

Disney's Mulan (1998)

Kung Fu Panda Holiday (2010)



Time Kids - <https://www.timeforkids.com/k1/new-years-traditions/>

Britannica Kids - <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/New-Years-Day/353529>

ASSESSMENT METHODS

- [] **Cultural Research Presentations:** Each student presents a poster or digital slideshow about a country's New Year traditions.
- [] **New Year Recipe Book:** Compile recipes from different New Year celebrations around the world, with students contributing dishes they've learned about.
- [] **Reflection Essay:** Students write about the New Year tradition that resonated most with them and why.

REFLECTION PROMPTS

1. What is the most interesting New Year tradition you learned about, and why?
2. How do different cultures express their hopes for the New Year through their traditions?
3. Are there any traditions that are similar to your family's New Year celebrations?