Name _____ Date _____



New Year Around the World

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Who Has the New Year First?

Earth spins around once a day. The sun can light up only one side of it at a time. When it is day in one place, it is night in another. So the world is split into **time zones**. Each time zone has its own time on the clock. That means the new year does not start everywhere at once. It moves around the world, one time zone at a time. Far out in the Pacific Ocean is a line drawn on maps, called the **date line**. You can not see it on the sea. Each new day starts just to the west of it. The island of Kiritimati (kir-ISS-mass) is there, so it has the new year first. At that moment, it is still 10 in the morning on December 31 in London! One of the last places to have the new year is American Samoa.

1. Which place has the new year first? **American Samoa** **Kiritimati** **London**

2. The new year starts everywhere at the same time. **true** **false**

3. When Kiritimati has its new year, it is still December 31 in London. **true** **false**

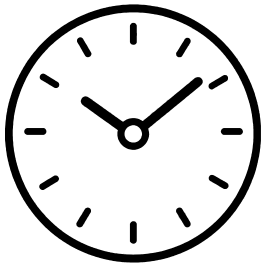
4. Why is the world split into time zones?

_____

_____

_____







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Name _____ Date _____

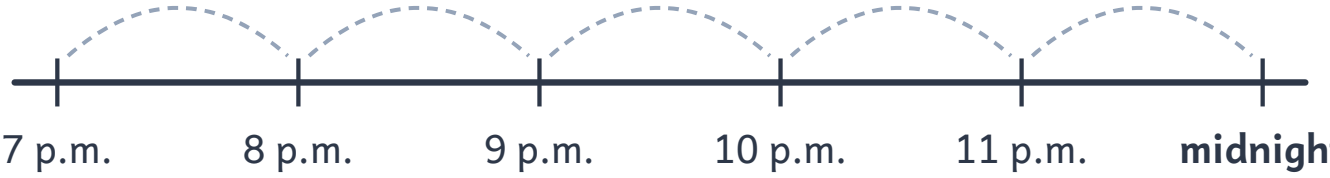
New Year Around the World

Midnight moves west. Count on to find the hours.

When it is midnight on January 1, 2027, in Kiritimati, it is still the evening of December 31 in these three places. Count on from each time to midnight. The first one is done for you.

Place	Its time then	Hours later
Auckland, New Zealand	11:00 p.m.	**1**
Sydney, Australia	9:00 p.m.	
Tokyo, Japan	7:00 p.m.	

Count on with the hour line. Each hop is 1 hour.



1. Which of the three places has its new year last? **Auckland** **Sydney** **Tokyo**

2. How many hours after Auckland does Sydney have its new year? **3** **1** **2**

3. How did you find the hours for Tokyo?

_____

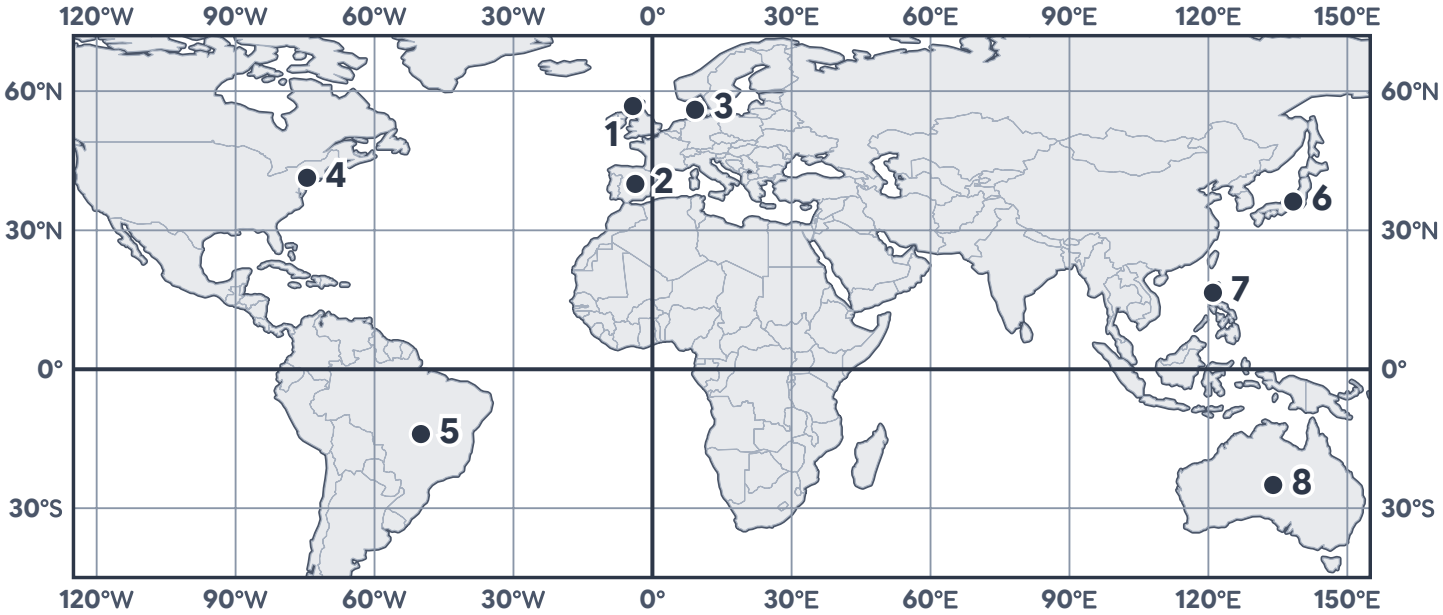
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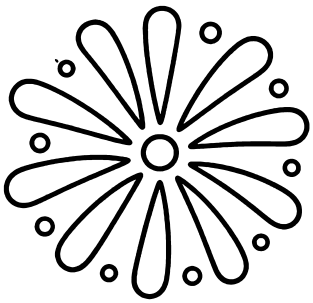
Name _____ Date _____

New Year Around the World

Find the eight places on the map. Each has a number.



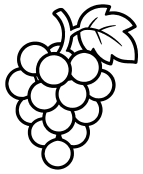
1. **Scotland** first-footing and "Auld Lang Syne"
2. **Spain** twelve grapes at midnight
3. **Denmark** jumping off chairs at midnight
4. **The United States** the ball drop in Times Square
5. **Brazil** white clothes and fireworks on the beach
6. **Japan** long noodles for a long life
7. **The Philippines** round fruits and polka dots
8. **Australia** summer fireworks over Sydney Harbour





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Name _____ Date _____



New Year Around the World

Read about Scotland and Spain. Then answer.

1. Scotland

In Scotland, the last day of the year is called **Hogmanay** (hog-muh-NAY). After midnight, people go **first-footing**. The first visitor to step into a home in the new year is said to bring good luck. This visitor often brings a small gift, such as shortbread. At midnight, people stand in a circle and sing an old song, "Auld Lang Syne." Its name means "long, long ago."

1. In Scotland, the last day of the year is called ____ **shortbread** **Hogmanay** **first-footing**

2. The first visitor of the new year is said to bring good luck. **true** **false**

3. What gift might a first-footer bring?

_____

_____

2. Spain

In Spain, people get ready for midnight with **twelve grapes** each. In Madrid, crowds fill a big square under a clock tower. As the clock strikes twelve, people eat one grape with each chime. There is a grape for each month of the year. Eating all twelve in time is said to bring a lucky year. It is harder than it sounds!

4. Each grape stands for a ____ of the year. **day** **week** **month**

5. People eat one grape with each ____ of the clock. **minute** **chime** **hour**

6. Eat all twelve in time, and it is said you will have a lucky ____ **day** **week** **year**

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Name _____ Date _____



New Year Around the World

Read about Denmark and the United States. Then answer.

3. Denmark

In Denmark, people climb onto chairs and sofas just before midnight. When the clock strikes twelve, they all jump down together. They leap into the new year! In an old custom, some people save old, chipped plates. On New Year's Eve, they smash them at the doors of friends and family. A big pile of broken plates by your door means you have many friends!

1. A big pile of broken plates by your door means you have many ____ **pets** **plates** **friends**

2. In Denmark, people jump down from chairs at midnight. **true** **false**

3. What do people in Denmark do just before midnight?

_____

_____

_____

4. The United States

In New York City, hundreds of thousands of people crowd into **Times Square** on New Year's Eve. A giant glowing ball sits at the top of a tall pole. A minute before midnight, the ball begins to slide down. The crowd counts down the last ten seconds. When the ball gets to the bottom, the new year has begun! The first ball dropped in 1907. It had 100 light bulbs.

4. The first ball dropped in ____ **1952** **1788** **1907**

5. The ball starts to slide down an hour before midnight. **true** **false**

6. What has happened when the ball gets to the bottom?

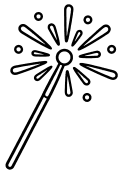
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_____

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Name _____ Date _____



New Year Around the World

Read about Brazil and Japan. Then answer.

5. Brazil

In Brazil, New Year's Eve comes in summer. So, many people go to the beach. In the city of Rio de Janeiro, more than two million people crowd onto Copacabana Beach. They listen to music and watch fireworks over the sea. Many people wear white. It is a color for peace and a fresh start. A New Year's meal often has lentils. They are said to bring luck.

1. In Brazil, New Year's Eve comes in winter. **true** **false**

2. Why do many people in Brazil wear white?

6. Japan

In Japan, the new year is the most important holiday of all. Before the year ends, families clean their homes. On New Year's Eve, many people eat long, thin noodles called **soba**. The long noodles stand for a long life. People also send New Year cards. The post office keeps the cards mailed in late December. Then it brings them on January 1, so stacks of cards come that morning!

3. Long noodles stand for ___ **a long life** **a long trip** **a long night**

4. In Japan, families clean their homes before the year ends. **true** **false**

5. Why do stacks of cards come on January 1?

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Name _____ Date _____



New Year Around the World

Read about the Philippines and Australia. Then answer.

7. The Philippines

In the Philippines, round things are a big part of New Year's Eve. Round shapes look like coins, so they are said to bring money. Many families set out twelve round fruits, one for each month. People often wear clothes with polka dots too. At midnight, children jump as high as they can. It is said that they will grow taller in the new year!

1. In the Philippines, round things are said to bring money. **true** **false**

2. Many families set out twelve round ____ **fruits** **plates** **coins**

3. Why do children jump at midnight?

8. Australia

Sydney, in Australia, is one of the first big cities to have the new year. It is summer there, so people spend the day outside at beaches and parks. More than a million people gather around **Sydney Harbour** to watch fireworks. There are two shows. The first show is at 9 p.m. Many families with young children watch it. Then the children can still get to bed! The big show is at midnight.

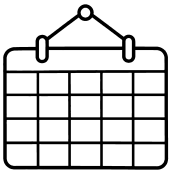
4. The big fireworks show in Sydney is at 9 p.m. **true** **false**

5. It is ____ in Sydney on New Year's Eve. **winter** **summer** **fall**

6. Why do many young children watch the 9 p.m. show?

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Name _____ Date _____



New Year Around the World

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

How January 1 Became New Year's Day

People have not always started the new year on January 1. Long ago, many people began it in spring, when crops were planted. The early Roman calendar began in March. Then, more than 2,000 years ago, Rome began its year on January 1. January was named for Janus, a Roman god of doors and beginnings. In old pictures, Janus has two faces. People say one looks back at the old year. The other looks ahead to the new one. Later, many places in Europe began the year on other days. Scotland moved to January 1 in 1600. England and its American colonies moved in 1752.

1. The early Roman calendar began in ____ **March** **June** **January**

2. People have always started the new year on January 1. **true** **false**

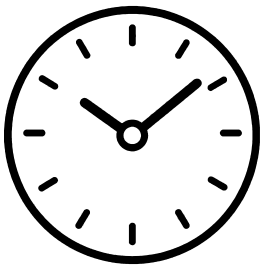
3. What do Janus's two faces look at?

_____

_____

4. When did Scotland move to January 1? **1752** **1600** **1907**

5. January was named for ____ **Rome** **Janus** **March**





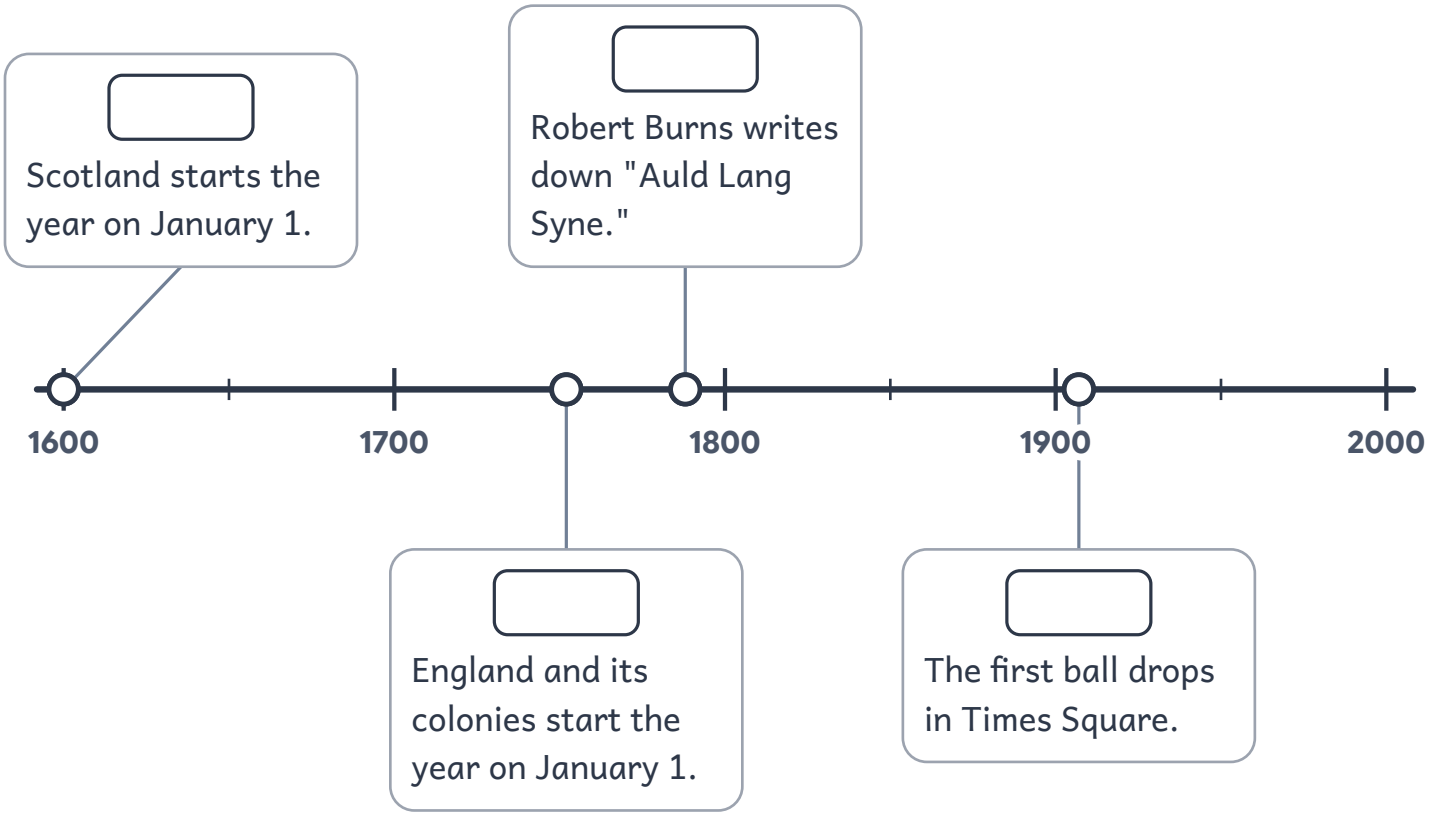
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Name _____ Date _____

New Year Around the World

Write the year of each event. Then answer the questions.

Years: **1600** **1752** **1788** **1907**



1. Scotland started the year on January 1 before England did. **true** **false**

2. The first ball dropped in Times Square before Robert Burns wrote down "Auld Lang Syne." **true** **false**

3. Robert Burns wrote down "Auld Lang Syne" before England moved to January 1. **true** **false**

4. How many years after England moved to January 1 did Robert Burns write down "Auld Lang Syne"? _____ years

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Name _____ Date _____



New Year Around the World

Read about three other new years. Then answer.

Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year comes in late January or February, with the new moon. It is the biggest holiday of the year in China. People keep it in Vietnam, Korea and many other places too. Families clean their homes and share a big dinner. Children get gifts of money. Each year is named for one of twelve animals.

1. Each year is named for one of twelve ____ **moons** **months** **animals**

Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah (rohsh huh-SHAH-nuh) is the Jewish New Year. It comes in September or October. Families share holiday meals. They dip apple slices in honey, for a sweet new year. They often eat challah, a braided bread. For the new year, it is baked round, like the circle of the year.

2. At Rosh Hashanah, people dip apples in honey for a sweet new year. **true** **false**

Nowruz

Nowruz (no-ROOZ) means "new day" in Persian. It is the new year in Iran and in many other lands. It starts at the very moment that spring begins, around March 20. Families clean their homes and visit their relatives. In Iran, they set a special table with seven things. Sprouts and apples are two of them.

3. Nowruz starts at the very moment ____ begins. **summer** **winter** **spring**

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Name _____ Date _____



New Year Around the World

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

time zone	something people have done for a long time
date line	12 o'clock at night, when a new day begins
midnight	bright bursts of color and light in the night sky
calendar	a part of Earth where clocks all show the same time
custom	the line on maps where each new day begins
fireworks	a chart of the days, weeks and months of a year

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Name _____ Date _____



New Year Around the World

How does your family welcome a new year? Draw and write.

Some families welcome the new year on January 1, and some on another day. How does your family welcome a new year? What do you eat, wear or do?

For the new year, my family

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New Year Around the World

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Who Has the New Year First?

Earth spins around once a day. The sun can light up only one side of it at a time. When it is day in one place, it is night in another. So the world is split into **time zones**. Each time zone has its own time on the clock. That means the new year does not start everywhere at once. It moves around the world, one time zone at a time. Far out in the Pacific Ocean is a line drawn on maps, called the **date line**. You can not see it on the sea. Each new day starts just to the west of it. The island of Kiritimati (kir-ISS-mass) is there, so it has the new year first. At that moment, it is still 10 in the morning on December 31 in London! One of the last places to have the new year is American Samoa.

1. Which place has the new year first?

American Samoa **(Kiritimati)** **London**

2. The new year starts everywhere at the same time.

true **(false)**

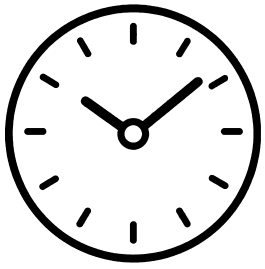
3. When Kiritimati has its new year, it is still December 31 in London.

(true) **false**

4. Why is the world split into time zones?

When it is day in one place, it is night in another.







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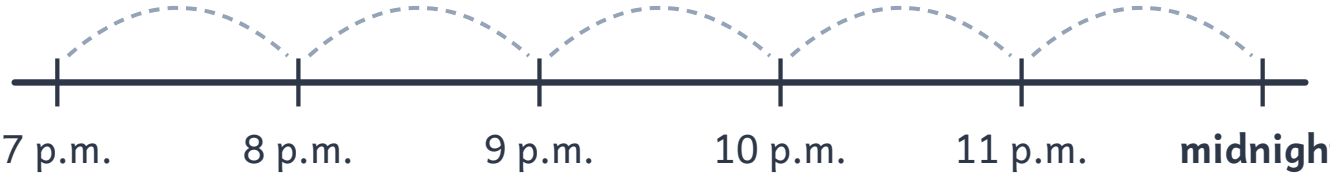
New Year Around the World

Midnight moves west. Count on to find the hours.

When it is midnight on January 1, 2027, in Kiritimati, it is still the evening of December 31 in these three places. Count on from each time to midnight. The first one is done for you.

Place	Its time then	Hours later
Auckland, New Zealand	11:00 p.m.	**1**
Sydney, Australia	9:00 p.m.	**3**
Tokyo, Japan	7:00 p.m.	**5**

Count on with the hour line. Each hop is 1 hour.



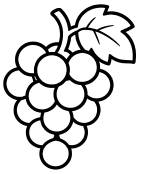
1. Which of the three places has its new year last? **Auckland** **Sydney** **Tokyo**

2. How many hours after Auckland does Sydney have its new year? **3** **1** **2**

3. How did you find the hours for Tokyo?

I counted on from 7 p.m. to midnight: 5 hours.

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New Year Around the World

Read about Scotland and Spain. Then answer.

1. Scotland

In Scotland, the last day of the year is called **Hogmanay** (hog-muh-NAY). After midnight, people go **first-footing**. The first visitor to step into a home in the new year is said to bring good luck. This visitor often brings a small gift, such as shortbread. At midnight, people stand in a circle and sing an old song, "Auld Lang Syne." Its name means "long, long ago."

1. In Scotland, the last day of the year is called ___

shortbread **Hogmanay** **first-footing**

2. The first visitor of the new year is said to bring good luck.

true **false**

3. What gift might a first-footer bring?

Shortbread.

2. Spain

In Spain, people get ready for midnight with **twelve grapes** each. In Madrid, crowds fill a big square under a clock tower. As the clock strikes twelve, people eat one grape with each chime. There is a grape for each month of the year. Eating all twelve in time is said to bring a lucky year. It is harder than it sounds!

4. Each grape stands for a ___ of the year.

day **week** **month**

5. People eat one grape with each ___ of the clock.

minute **chime** **hour**

6. Eat all twelve in time, and it is said you will have a lucky ___

day **week** **year**

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New Year Around the World

Read about Denmark and the United States. Then answer.

3. Denmark

In Denmark, people climb onto chairs and sofas just before midnight. When the clock strikes twelve, they all jump down together. They leap into the new year! In an old custom, some people save old, chipped plates. On New Year's Eve, they smash them at the doors of friends and family. A big pile of broken plates by your door means you have many friends!

1. A big pile of broken plates by your door means you have many ____ **pets** **plates** **friends**

2. In Denmark, people jump down from chairs at midnight. **true** **false**

3. What do people in Denmark do just before midnight?

They climb onto chairs and sofas.

4. The United States

In New York City, hundreds of thousands of people crowd into **Times Square** on New Year's Eve. A giant glowing ball sits at the top of a tall pole. A minute before midnight, the ball begins to slide down. The crowd counts down the last ten seconds. When the ball gets to the bottom, the new year has begun! The first ball dropped in 1907. It had 100 light bulbs.

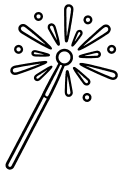
4. The first ball dropped in ____ **1952** **1788** **1907**

5. The ball starts to slide down an hour before midnight. **true** **false**

6. What has happened when the ball gets to the bottom?

The new year has begun.

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New Year Around the World

Read about Brazil and Japan. Then answer.

5. Brazil

In Brazil, New Year's Eve comes in summer. So, many people go to the beach. In the city of Rio de Janeiro, more than two million people crowd onto Copacabana Beach. They listen to music and watch fireworks over the sea. Many people wear white. It is a color for peace and a fresh start. A New Year's meal often has lentils. They are said to bring luck.

1. In Brazil, New Year's Eve comes in winter. **true** **false**

2. Why do many people in Brazil wear white?

It is a color for peace and a fresh start.

6. Japan

In Japan, the new year is the most important holiday of all. Before the year ends, families clean their homes. On New Year's Eve, many people eat long, thin noodles called **soba**. The long noodles stand for a long life. People also send New Year cards. The post office keeps the cards mailed in late December. Then it brings them on January 1, so stacks of cards come that morning!

3. Long noodles stand for ___ **a long life** **a long trip** **a long night**

4. In Japan, families clean their homes before the year ends. **true** **false**

5. Why do stacks of cards come on January 1?

The post office keeps the cards and brings them on January 1.

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New Year Around the World

Read about the Philippines and Australia. Then answer.

7. The Philippines

In the Philippines, round things are a big part of New Year's Eve. Round shapes look like coins, so they are said to bring money. Many families set out twelve round fruits, one for each month. People often wear clothes with polka dots too. At midnight, children jump as high as they can. It is said that they will grow taller in the new year!

1. In the Philippines, round things are said to bring money. **true** **false**

2. Many families set out twelve round ____ **fruits** **plates** **coins**

3. Why do children jump at midnight?

It is said that they will grow taller.

8. Australia

Sydney, in Australia, is one of the first big cities to have the new year. It is summer there, so people spend the day outside at beaches and parks. More than a million people gather around **Sydney Harbour** to watch fireworks. There are two shows. The first show is at 9 p.m. Many families with young children watch it. Then the children can still get to bed! The big show is at midnight.

4. The big fireworks show in Sydney is at 9 p.m. **true** **false**

5. It is ____ in Sydney on New Year's Eve. **winter** **summer** **fall**

6. Why do many young children watch the 9 p.m. show?

They can see fireworks and still get to bed.

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New Year Around the World

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

How January 1 Became New Year's Day

People have not always started the new year on January 1. Long ago, many people began it in spring, when crops were planted. The early Roman calendar began in March. Then, more than 2,000 years ago, Rome began its year on January 1. January was named for Janus, a Roman god of doors and beginnings. In old pictures, Janus has two faces. People say one looks back at the old year. The other looks ahead to the new one. Later, many places in Europe began the year on other days. Scotland moved to January 1 in 1600. England and its American colonies moved in 1752.

1. The early Roman calendar began in ____ **March** **June** **January**

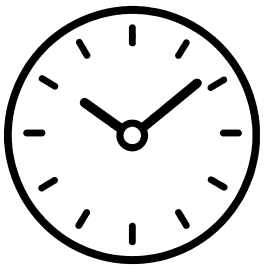
2. People have always started the new year on January 1. **true** **false**

3. What do Janus's two faces look at?

One looks back at the old year. One looks ahead to the new one.

4. When did Scotland move to January 1? **1752** **1600** **1907**

5. January was named for ____ **Rome** **Janus** **March**



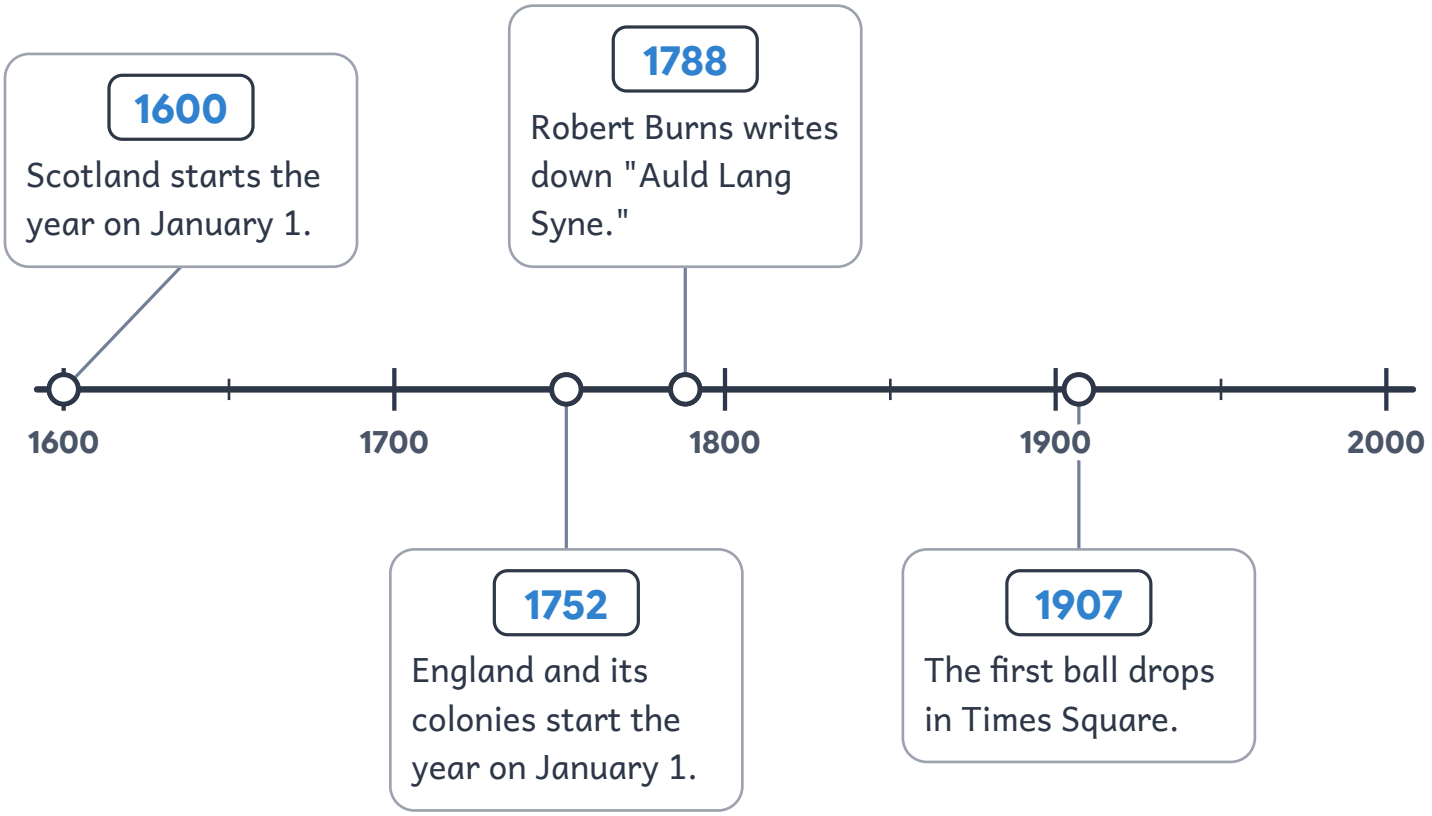


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New Year Around the World

Write the year of each event. Then answer the questions.

Years: 1600 1752 1788 1907



1. Scotland started the year on January 1 before England did. **true** **false**

2. The first ball dropped in Times Square before Robert Burns wrote down "Auld Lang Syne." **true** **false**

3. Robert Burns wrote down "Auld Lang Syne" before England moved to January 1. **true** **false**

4. How many years after England moved to January 1 did Robert Burns write down "Auld Lang Syne"? **36** years

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New Year Around the World

Read about three other new years. Then answer.

Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year comes in late January or February, with the new moon. It is the biggest holiday of the year in China. People keep it in Vietnam, Korea and many other places too. Families clean their homes and share a big dinner. Children get gifts of money. Each year is named for one of twelve animals.

1. Each year is named for one of twelve ____ **moons** **months** **animals**

Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah (rohsh huh-SHAH-nuh) is the Jewish New Year. It comes in September or October. Families share holiday meals. They dip apple slices in honey, for a sweet new year. They often eat challah, a braided bread. For the new year, it is baked round, like the circle of the year.

2. At Rosh Hashanah, people dip apples in honey for a sweet new year. **true** **false**

Nowruz

Nowruz (no-ROOZ) means "new day" in Persian. It is the new year in Iran and in many other lands. It starts at the very moment that spring begins, around March 20. Families clean their homes and visit their relatives. In Iran, they set a special table with seven things. Sprouts and apples are two of them.

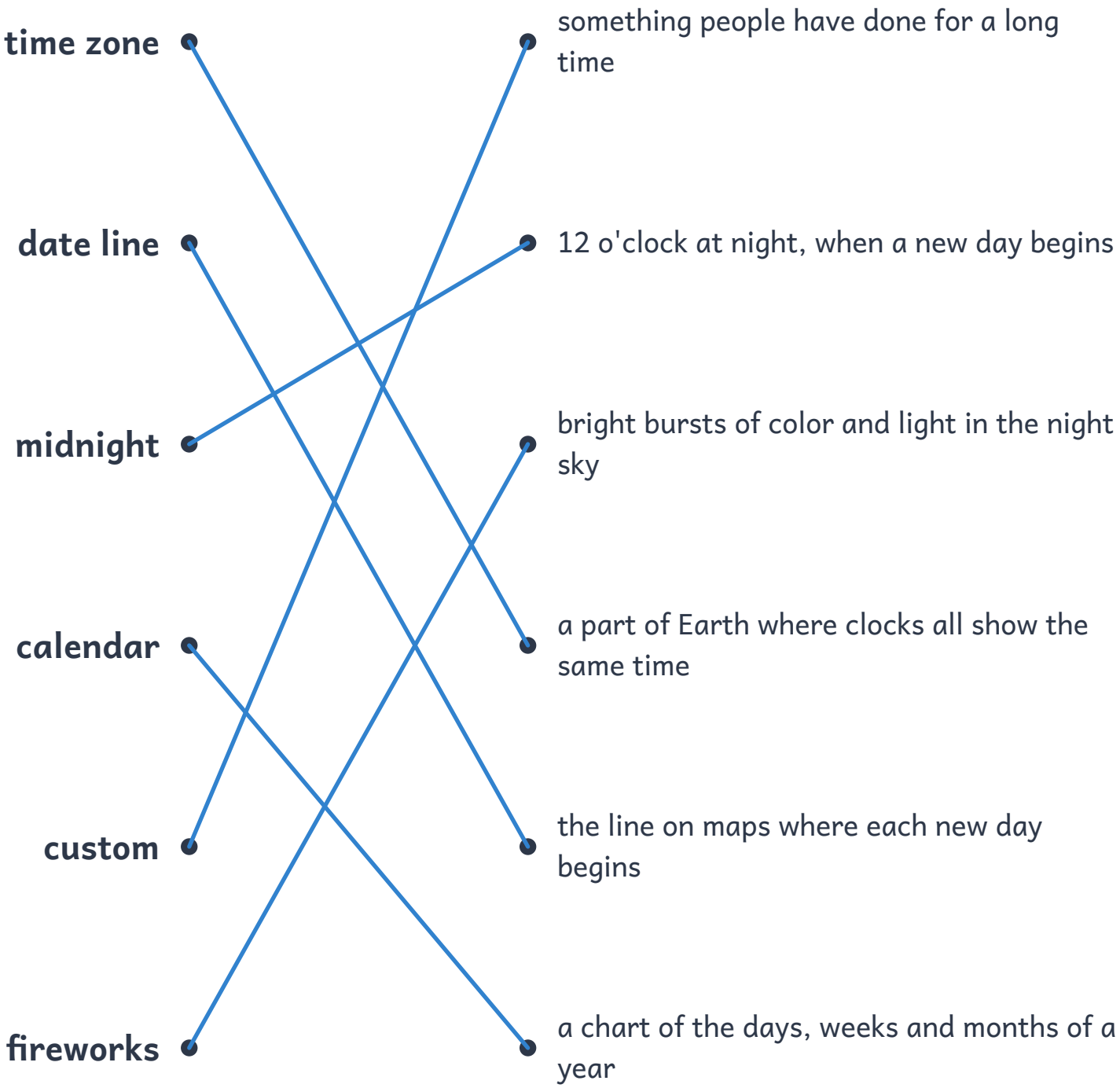
3. Nowruz starts at the very moment ____ begins. **summer** **winter** **spring**

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New Year Around the World

Draw a line from each word to what it means.



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