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New Year's Day Book

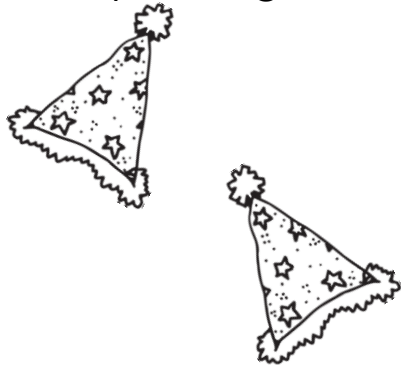


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The Romans had previously celebrated March 25th as the beginning of the New Year. But since Government officials were elected in December and took their new positions on December 31st, they changed it.

Happy New Year!



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The **custom** of celebrating the New Year on January 1st began in Rome, Italy.



Rome

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Celebrating in Germany

The people of Germany enjoy a custom called "**lead** pouring." On New Year's Day, children drop hot drops of melted lead into containers of cold water. As the lead cools and hardens, unusual shapes appear. The children have fun tell their fortunes by the shapes of the lead.

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Celebrating in Sweden

The Swedish people celebrate the New Year with parties and family gatherings on the last night of the year. There is much food and good wishes are expressed to one and all.



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Celebrating in Nigeria

The people of northern Nigeria celebrate the New Year at the beginning of fishing season, usually the first part of February. Thousands of people gather along the banks of the Sokoto River with fish nets. At the sound of a whistle, everyone jumps in the water, **startling** the fish into the nets. The fisherman with the largest fish wins a prize.

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Celebrating in the United States

In the southern states, it is customary to eat certain foods on New Year's Day in hopes of bringing **prosperity** in the coming year. Black-eyed Peas symbolize pennies and Collard Greens represent dollar bills. Making New Year's **resolutions** is a new custom based on the idea of improving the New Year in the hope that it will be better than the last.

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Glossary

custom- the practice of doing things

lead- a metal

startling- to scare

prosperity- to have success

resolution- a commitment that you make



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Name: _____ Date: _____

New Year's Book Questions

1. In what country did celebrating the New Year begin?

2. What date did the Roman's use to celebrate the New Year?

3. What is the name of the custom that the German children use to celebrate the New Year?

4. What is the name of the river that the Nigerians jump into every New Year's with fish nets?

5. What is the name of the two vegetables eaten in the southern states to celebrate the New Year?
