



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Story New Year's Day

New Year's Day is a special day when people all around the world celebrate new beginnings. Let's learn about its history!

## Long, Long Ago

A very long time ago, the people in a place called Babylon were some of the first to celebrate the New Year. They celebrated when it was time to plant crops in the spring. They had a big party called Akitu that lasted for eleven whole days! During this festival, they would crown a new king or show their loyalty to the current ruler.

## The Romans Join In

The Romans also had a hand in shaping New Year's celebrations. They celebrated a festival called "Kalends" on the first day of January. This month was named after Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and endings, who had two faces—one looking backward at the old year and the other forward to the new year.

## Changes Over Time

The day for New Year's has changed many times throughout history. In some places, it was celebrated when the spring started, while in other places, it was during the fall harvest. It wasn't until Julius Caesar, a famous Roman leader, introduced the Julian calendar that January 1st became the official start of the New Year.

## Celebrating Around the World

Different countries celebrate New Year's Day in different ways. In China, the New Year is celebrated with colorful and lively events during the Lunar New Year, while in India, people celebrate with Diwali, the festival of lights. In many places, people gather with family and friends, have special meals, and set off fireworks to welcome the New Year.

## Modern Times

Nowadays, New Year's Day is celebrated with parties, fireworks, and resolutions. People make promises to themselves—called resolutions—to improve or change something in their lives during the coming year. It might be learning something new, being kinder, or spending more time with family.

## Hope and Happiness

When the clock strikes midnight on December 31st, people all over the world cheer, hug, and wish each other a "Happy New Year!" It's a time when we think about the past year and look forward to new adventures and dreams in the year ahead. New Year's Day is not just a date on the calendar—it's a symbol of fresh starts and new beginnings. From ancient times to now, this special day brings people together in hope and joy for the future. So, as we welcome each New Year, let's remember the history behind this celebration and look forward to making our own history in the coming days!





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1. When did the people in Babylon celebrate the New Year?
  - a. During the winter
  - b. When it was time to plant crops in the spring
  - c. During the fall harvest
  - d. On the first day of January
  
2. Which festival did the Romans celebrate on the first day of January?
  - a. Akitu
  - b. Lunar New Year
  - c. Kalends
  - d. Diwali
  
3. Who introduced the Julian calendar, making January 1st the official start of the New Year?
  - a. Julius Caesar
  - b. Janus
  - c. King of Babylon
  - d. Emperor of Rome
  
4. How do people in China celebrate the New Year?
  - a. With a big party called Akitu
  - b. By setting off fireworks
  - c. With colorful and lively events during the Lunar New Year
  - d. By making resolutions
  
5. What do people do when the clock strikes midnight on December 31st?
  - a. Celebrate with family and friends
  - b. Wish each other a "Happy New Year!"
  - c. Have special meals
  - d. Make resolutions

