



The New Year

MINI UNIT BY:


schoolio

Social Studies

Language

Math

Science

Art



SCHOOLIO


THE NEW YEAR

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Lesson 1 – What Is New Year’s?

Discussion:


 What is the New Year?

✓ New Year’s Day is the first day of the new calendar year, and as the year rolls over, people like to celebrate the passing year, reflect on the year gone by, and plan for the year to come.

✓ For some, it’s a raucous party-style celebration. For others, it’s a time for quiet reflection or prayer. However people may spend their New Year’s Eve or New Year’s Day, it’s not uncommon around the world for people to note in some way the passing of the year.



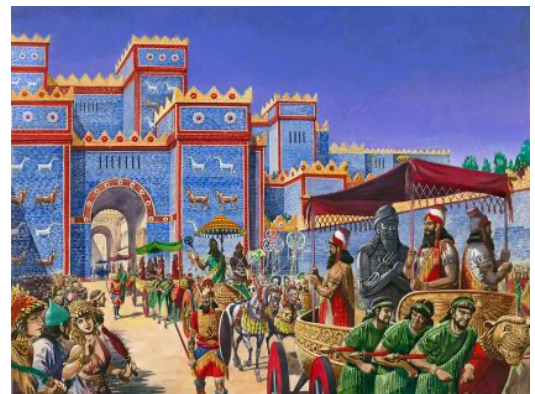
✓ For thousands of years, people all over the world have celebrated in one way or another on a special day to mark the passing of another year.

 What day is the first of the year?

✓ The first day of the year has actually changed over time, and still today many people in various parts of the world or various cultures celebrate the new year at different times.

 The New Year Through History:

✓ The ancient Babylonians are said to have been the first people to hold recorded celebrations in honor of the new year, some 4000 years ago!



▪ For them the year began not in January but in mid-March, when the crops were planted.

▪ They held a 12-day long celebration of the New Year.

- ✓ The ancient Greeks celebrated the New Year around the Winter Solstice, December 20 or 21st.
- ✓ The ancient Egyptians celebrated the New Year on July 20th.



- ✓ In ancient Rome, March marked the beginning of the calendar for a long time.
 - In 46 B.C., Julius Caesar created the Julian calendar, which set the new year to be January 1st. But it still didn't completely standardize the day, and New Year's celebrations continued to drift around on the calendar.
- ✓ In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII (13th) implemented the Gregorian calendar

to make the dates stop wandering with respect to the seasons.

- ✓ Since then, January 1st has been recognized as the beginning of the New Year in most countries and cultures (but not all!).

The New Year Across Cultures:

- ✓ The New Year is not celebrated on January 1st in all places or across all cultures.
- ✓ For example, in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iran, Nepal and Saudi Arabia they have their own separate calendar conventions.
- ✓ The Jewish calendar is lunar, and the New Year's festival, Rosh Hashanah, is celebrated between September and October.
- ✓ The Islamic calendar is also lunar, and the date of their new year can drift significantly.
- ✓ The Chinese calendar is also lunar, and their Chinese New Year falls between Jan. 21 and Feb. 20.



Practice Work: All About the New Year

All About the New Year

Parent Note: This mini unit is designed for a wide variety of ages, so please pick and choose which questions best fit your child's age and working grade level or scribe the answers for younger students.

1. Who are believed to be the first people to celebrate the New Year?

- a) Egyptians
- b) Babylonians
- c) Romans

2. Which famous Roman was responsible for making the New Year on January 1st?

- a) Marc Anthony
- b) Romeo Capulet
- c) Julius Caesar

3. Everyone in the world celebrates the New Year on the same day.

- a) True
- b) False

4. Some people celebrate the New Year on different days because

- a) of the country they live in
- b) their religion
- c) both

5. In my family, the New Year begins on this date: _____

6. We celebrate (or don't) by doing these things:

Lesson 2 – Making Resolutions

Discussion:

 What is a Resolution?

- ✓ It's very common for people to make a New Year's Resolution- what is that?

Resolution (res·o·lu·tion): a firm decision to do or not to do something.

- ✓ The idea of making a resolution usually involves reflecting on the past year and deciding on a positive change you'd like to make for the upcoming year.

 The History of New Year's Resolutions

- ✓ The ancient Babylonians (the first to celebrate New Year's) were also the first recorded to make resolutions.

- They would make promises to their gods to pay debts and return objects they had borrowed from others. They believed if they kept their word, the gods would favour them.



✓ The ancient Romans also made a type of resolution for the New Year.

- January was named for a god named Janus, who symbolically looked backwards into the previous year and ahead into the future. As part of the New Year celebrations, the Romans offered sacrifices to the god Janus and made promises of good conduct for the coming year.



✓ Early Christians also made resolutions when they marked the passing of the New Year.

- Traditionally, the New Year was an occasion for thinking about one's past mistakes and resolving to do and be better in the future.



Resolutions Today



- ✓ Despite the religious roots, today most New Year's Resolutions are unrelated to religion, and many people of varying backgrounds participate in the practice.
- ✓ Today, most people's resolutions are promises made only to themselves.

Practice Work: Making Resolutions

Making Resolutions

Cut out the following pages to make a booklet to commemorate the year gone by and look ahead to the new year coming! Write and draw to create your booklet.

My best memories from this year are

My New Year Book

By: _____

Goodbye 20_____



This page left intentionally blank for cut-outs.

My greatest achievements from this year are

Some mistakes I made and lessons I learned are

This page left intentionally blank for cut-outs.

My resolutions and goals for next year are





Overall, this year was

Next year is going to be

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Lesson 3 – Counting Down to the New Year

Discussion:

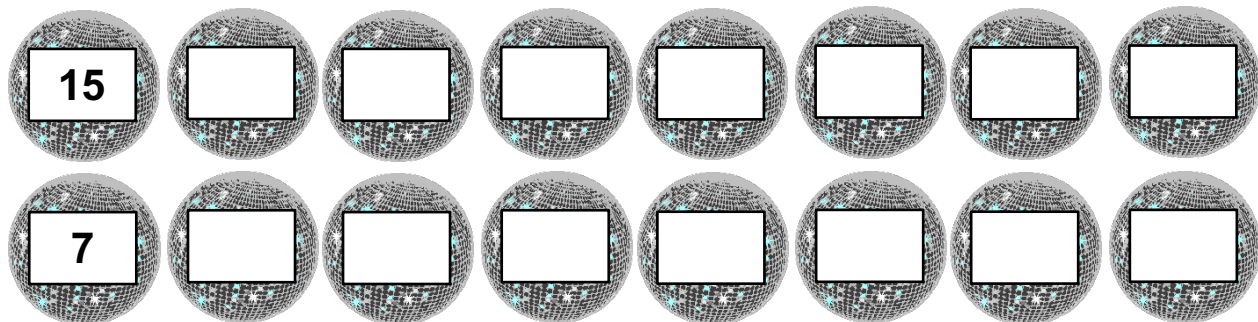
-  Have you ever watched a “ball drop” on New Year’s Eve? Many New Year’s celebrations today include some kind of countdown. Sometimes a ball drops in the last ten seconds of the year, or a timer shows on a big screen, or people count out loud.
-  Time balls originated in the early eighteen-hundreds, before there were time zones. Most cities used the sun to keep their own time.
-  Precise time keeping was important for ships at sea, but hard to keep. In 1818, Captain Robert Wauchope, of the Royal Navy, had the idea to use a visual signal coordinated by telegraph that captains could see from their ship decks.
 - ✓ The first ball drop took place in late 1829, in Portsmouth, England.
 - ✓ Wauchope’s design used two balls set on a flagpole at the water’s edge. One was fixed at the top; the second was weighted and could move up and down the flagpole. Minutes before noon, the second ball was raised up the flagpole until it met the stationary ball, so that no light passed between them. At the moment captains saw light between the balls, they knew it was officially noon and could set their equipment.
 - ✓ Though the technology was flawed for use at sea, time balls found a new audience in cities. People set their personal clocks to them, as did city businesses that relied on having the precise time, such as banks, coach companies, clockmakers, and playhouses.
 - ✓ New balls popped up on both coasts. Businesses put them in their shop windows or atop their corporate headquarters. Jewelry stores used them to demonstrate the reliability of their clocks and watches.
-  The ball drop for New Year’s Eve, officially marking the moment of midnight, when the day changes from New Year’s Eve to New Year’s Day, has been a method of time marking for a very long time!

Practice Work: Countdown to the New Year!

Countdown to the New Year!

Parent Note: This mini unit is designed for a wide variety of ages, so please pick and choose which questions best fit your child's age and working grade level or scribe the answers for younger students.

1. Fill in the missing numbers by counting down!



2. Sathish and Dennis both bring cookies to their New Year's Eve party. Sathish brings 42 cookies shaped like time balls. Dennis brings 37 cookies shaped like fireworks. How many more cookies did Sathish bring than Dennis?

3. Jaymee and Sheri are blowing up balloons for the New Year's Eve party. They blow up 10 silver balloons, 14 black balloons, and 17 gold balloons. How many balloons do they have all together?

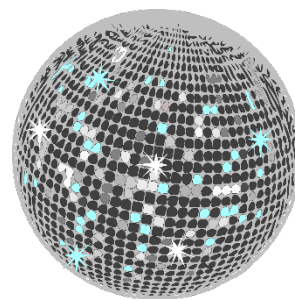


4. Lin and Marie are planning the food for the New Year's Eve party. They know that there are 23 kids coming to the party. They want to have 3 slices of pizza available per kid. How many slices of pizza do they need to have?



5. Each pizza they buy from the pizza shop is cut into 10 slices. How many pizzas should they buy so they have enough slices?

6. Each pizza costs \$12.50. How much will all the pizza cost them?




7. How much should they charge each of the 23 partygoers in order to cover their pizza costs?




Lesson 4 – Ball Drop Stem Activity

Discussion:

 We are going to make a ball that can move up and down, so you can count down to the New Year yourself on whichever day you mark the passing of the year!

 Supplies Needed:

- ✓ Countdown Tower and ball cut-out
- ✓ Toothpicks (4)
- ✓ String or Yarn
- ✓ Glue or Tape

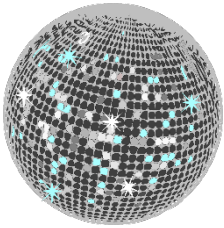
 Instructions:

- ✓ Cut out the Countdown Tower and fold on the lines. Side 1 and 4 will overlap and should be glued together to form a triangle that stands on its own.
 - Is your tower unsteady? Brainstorm ways to make a more stable structure - would a different material help? Would widening the base help? What about struts and ties for support?
- ✓ Poke toothpicks through the tower, two on the top, two on the bottom.
 - What sort of system does this remind you of? Is it similar to a pulley system perhaps?
- ✓ Measure out your string and tie it into a circle.
 - It should loop over the top and bottom toothpicks, making like a flagpole pulley system. It should be a snug fit so it doesn't fall off when you pull on the string, but instead goes around the toothpicks, but not so tight as to pull the toothpicks out of their positions.
- ✓ Cut out the ball and tape or glue it to the string at the top.
- ✓ You should now be able to pull up on one side of the string and have the ball move down on the other side, like a flagpole!

Practice Work: Ball Drop Cut Outs

Ball Drop Cut Outs


	<p>○</p> <p>10</p> <p>9</p> <p>8</p> <p>7</p> <p>6</p> <p>5</p> <p>4</p> <p>3</p> <p>2</p> <p>1</p> <p>Happy New Year!!</p> <p>○</p>		
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Lesson 5 – Confetti Eruption Science Experiment

Discussion:

 What better way to celebrate the New Year than with an eruption of confetti?!

 Supplies:

- ✓ Several small cups - the plastic mini wine glasses are extra festive
- ✓ A tray with a lip to place the cups on (optional: this will help with mess!)
- ✓ Baking Soda
- ✓ Vinegar
- ✓ Confetti and/or glitter
- ✓ Dropper or turkey baster

 Instructions:

- ✓ Make a baking soda paste. Add baking soda and confetti/glitter to a bowl. Slowly add a little water at a time until it's a playdoh like consistency.
- ✓ Spoon baking soda mixture into cups on the tray.
- ✓ Set out tray and give child(ren) small cups or bowls with vinegar in them and dropper or turkey baster.
- ✓ Add vinegar to cups and watch what happens!!



For more info and photos, this experiment is from: <https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/confetti-science-eruptions-new-years-eve-science-activity/>

Lesson 6 – Design a Party Hat!

Discussion:

 Today for Art, let's make a party hat to wear while celebrating!

 Supplies:

- ✓ Paper
- ✓ Tissue paper
- ✓ Glue
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ String or ribbon
- ✓ Stickers, dabbers, markers, etc for decorating

 Instructions:

- ✓ Cut out the template and use it to trace onto whatever colour paper you'd like to use for your hat. Cut that out and glue the edges together.
- ✓ Follow the instructions for making a pompom if you'd like one on the top of your hat!
- ✓ Decorate your hat anyway you like!



For more info and photos, this craft came from: <http://andersruff.blogspot.com/2010/08/from-our-studio-birthday-party-hats.html?m=1>

Design a Party Hat

It doesn't have to be your birthday to have fun in a party hat! Decorate the party hat however you like- colouring, stickers, paint, etc. Make it your own! Have an adult help you cut it out and glue the two edges together. You can add a pompom or ribbons to the top as well if you'd like!

BIRTHDAY HAT WITH TISSUE POMS

1. Cut out the template
2. Trace onto your pattern paper
3. Tape or glue sides together
4. Leave open hole at top
5. Tie your tissue pom* with a long ribbon
6. Feed strings from pom through the hole
7. Tape the strings to the inside of hat

Tissue Poms:

{We used 20" x 20"}

1. Layer 4 pieces of tissue paper
2. Fan fold them together, 3/4" wide until there is no more paper left to fan-fold.
3. Cut fan-fold into thirds - approx 6.66" long (3 each)
4. Tie each shortened fan-fold in half with a really long ribbon/string
5. Round off each end of fan-fold with scissors
6. Gently peel apart each layer of tissue until it forms a pom

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ANSWER KEY

All About New Year

1. B; 2. C; 3. B; 4. C

Counting Down to New Years

2. 5; 3. 41; 4. 69; 5. 7; 6. \$87.50; 7. \$3.80



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