

# New Year's Around the World



**Directions:** Read the passage. Then answer the questions on the next page.

*People around the world celebrate the New Year in many different ways. In the United States, many people watch fireworks or count down to midnight with family and friends. Some families make resolutions, which are promises to improve or try something new in the coming year.*

*In Spain, it is a tradition to eat twelve grapes at midnight. Each grape stands for one month of the new year and is meant to bring good luck.*

*In Japan, people often visit temples on New Year's Day. They ring bells to welcome the new year and reflect on the past one.*

*In Russia, New Year is one of the most important holidays of the year. Families decorate a New Year tree, which looks similar to a Christmas tree, and gather together for a big meal. Children often look forward to a visit from Grandfather Frost and his helper, the Snow Maiden, who bring gifts. Many people watch fireworks and make wishes as the new year begins.*

*Even though the traditions are different, many New Year celebrations share the same purpose: spending time with loved ones and hoping for a happy and successful year ahead.*

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**Directions:** Read the passage. Then answer the questions on the next page.

1. What do people in Spain do at midnight to celebrate the New Year?

2. What is one way families in Russia celebrate the New Year?

3. What is the main idea of this passage?

4. Write two details from the passage that support the main idea.